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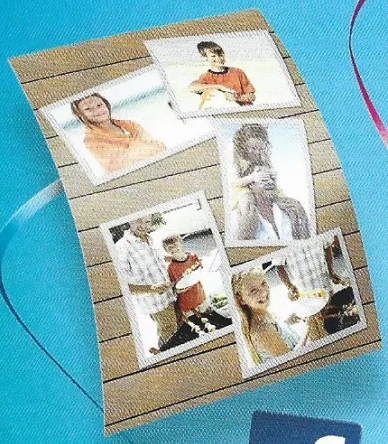

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ISSUE #03

www.htxt.co.za

May 2014

CHILLING OUT, HEATING UP

Welcome to the third issue of **htxt**.africa's **Tech Made Easy**, and can I start by thanking all the people who've written in to say how much they're enjoying the mag. Now that we've got a couple of months of production under our belt, we're getting a feel for where we can improve.

We know, for example, that you lot love competitions. So we've fixed up a fantastic opportunity to win one of Fujifilm's groundbreaking X100 cameras over on **page 36**. We know you like handy hints and tips – so we've got loads of those dotted around the mag. Got a new Samsung Galaxy S5? Lucky people – now make the most of it with our guide on **page 52**.

Big news this month included Microsoft's update to Windows 8.1. We've got tips for mastering the Metro interface over on **page 47**.

Enjoy the issue, and don't forget that if you like what you see here we publish more news, reviews and tips just like this over at our website **htxt**.co.za. You'll find more advanced features and insight into an industry that goes far beyond the remit of this mag, and a lively community of readers to chat to in our forums.

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WHAT IS THAT 'Bit.ly' STUFF ALL ABOUT?

Bit.ly shortens web addresses, making it easier to paste them into character-limited services like Twitter or Facebook. They also serve as shortcuts to web pages with long addresses. Type the Bit.ly URL seen in the exerpt pictured into your browser, for example, and you'll go directly to the article page.

FACEBOOK BUYS WHATSAPP FOR R200BN

Facebook has just dived into its war chest again to make another big purchase, this time it's buying the popular messaging service WhatsApp.

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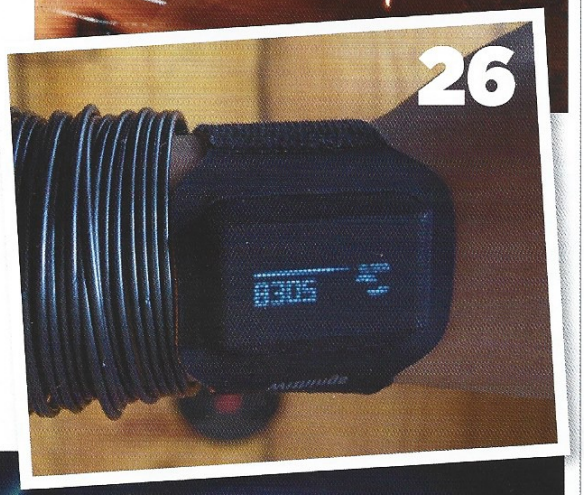

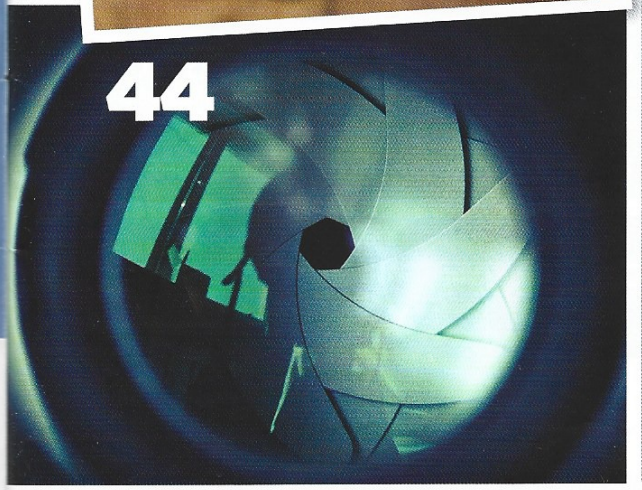

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Foodies, philanthropy & Feedie

The app that feeds the hungry with a few simple clicks

Feedie is a new photo-sharing app from the Lunchbox Fund. Every time you share a picture of food, The Lunchbox Fund will donate one meal to a less-fortunate child. It's simple: snap a photo of what's on your plate at a participating Feedie restaurant and a child will receive a full, nutritious meal.

The app was originally launched in the US last year, and has just been launched in South Africa with 24 restaurants already signed up for use.

The Lunchbox Fund was initially setup to address the deficit between the government feeding programme and the amount of children that actually need to be fed every day at schools. "There are 12 million kids that live below the poverty line and government provides meals to eight million... but there's a gap of four million and that's where we come in," explains Topaz Page-Green. "We provide meals in early childhood development centres, supplementary feeding in primary schools and high school feeding programmes. People are very fascinated with the simplicity and idea of [Feedie] that they all want to be a part of it. It's less about participating in charity and more about being a part of an innovative thing. It's a very simple idea: we combined the love of food, philanthropy and passion for technology and created Feedie, which replicates the one-for-one model within the app."

> *"There are 12 million kids that live below the poverty line and government provides meals to eight million... but there's a gap of 4 million"*

Restaurants sign up to be a part of Feedie. They pay a subscription fee of R2 500 annually which is renewable at the end of every year. For every 1 000 restaurants that sign up in South Africa, the Lunchbox Fund feeds 5 000 kids. It costs the Lunchbox Fund approximately R2.50 to feed each child.

"Restaurants get a lot out of participating in Feedie. They get amplified social advertising, tax deduction and being a part of this brilliant thing," adds Page-Green. "Everything we raise goes towards feeding the kids."

Feedie also provides restaurants with digital toolkits which makes the package very simple. "We started very humbly by feeding 100 kids a day, now we feed around 6 000 kids a day. Our goal is to be feeding 50 000 kids by 2016 and a lifetime goal of 4 million kids because that's the deficit. We want to fill the gap so that every kid has food in their stomachs so that they can feel that there's an omnipotent eye out there that cares enough to make sure they have something in their stomachs."

By sharing your food or drink photos at participating Feedie restaurants, you'll be giving a meal to orphans and impoverished kids in townships and rural schools. The Lunchbox Fund currently has programmes in Limpopo, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Gauteng and will be expanding into KZN next.

You can download Feedie for iOS. The Android version of the app will be available this month.

More news at htxt.africa
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VIRTUAL REALITY THERAPY HELPS STROKE PATIENTS RECOVER FASTER – STUDY

Elisabeth Bruyere Hospital in Canada, used VR to treat patients who'd recently suffered strokes and showed tangible improvements.
Bit.ly/1hs0W6s

WIKIMEDIA APPOINTS A NEW FEMALE BOSS

The Wikimedia Foundation, which operates Wikipedia, has announced the appointment of Lila Tretikov, as the foundation's new CEO..
Bit.ly/Rh3VbL

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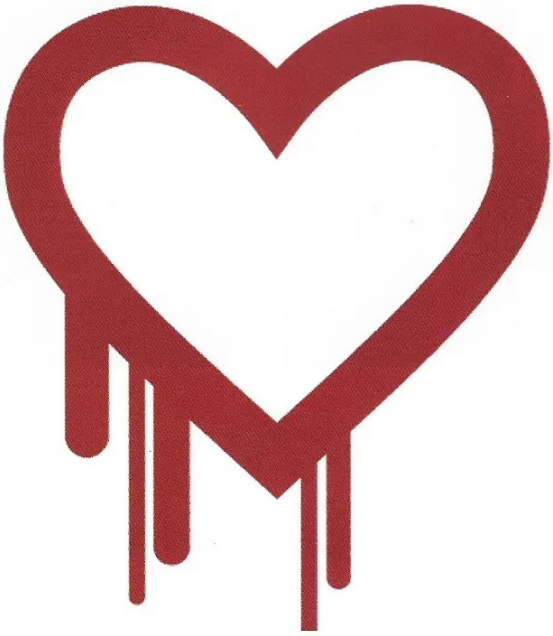

Heartbleed bug opens up two thirds of internet to major security breach

A team of researchers from Codenomicon and Google Security have uncovered a major flaw in one of the most popular crytography library Open SSL, which it says may have exposed security keys for up to 66% of websites ranging from e-commerce to social media to blogs (just like this one) over the last three years.

In a blog post about the bug published last month, the team lays out a technical explanation of what's at risk and why, and blames a "programming error" which allows attackers to read chunks of up to 64KB from a server's memory as crypotography keys are exchanged. These keys are the tools used to encrypt traffic to and from your PC to a server provided by – say – a bank and are swapped during the password authentication 'handshake' of logging on to a site.

While the bug – officially designated CVE-2014-0160 and nicknamed Heartbleed – has been patched out of the latest OpenSSL libraries, the team believe that it has been in the wild since 2011 and that attacks made using this exploit would be undetectable. As well as updating servers to the latest version of OpenSSL, the researchers recommend service providers revoke existing keys – which are provided by Certificate Authorities – and apply for fresh ones that haven't been compromised.

Researchers at anonymity experts TOR point out that only more recent versions of OpenSSL are affected by the bug, and that its browser is safe as it doesn't rely on that particular library for encryption.

COMICS
COMIXOLOGY
TAKE COMICS FURTHER.

Non-DStv subscribers can now stream Box Office movies

You no longer need a DStv decoder, Explora or even an active Multichoice subscription to access the BoxOffice online movie rental service any more. That's due to an announcement at a gala event held to launch Samsung's new Galaxy S5 smartphone to the South African market. This offer is not however without a caveat. While existing DStv subscribers will be able to access the service at the same price as before, namely R25 per movie rental, only just on their Samsung Galaxy S5 smartphones, non-subscribers will pay 20%, or R5, more per new release than subscribers do for the same content. Classic movies will cost R10 for both subscribers and non-subscribers alike. As with accessing the service on a decoder, renters will have a 48 hour window in which to watch the title. There is no limitation on the number of times the title can be viewed in this window and Galaxy S5 owners will get the first movie they rent on BoxOffice for free the moment they have activated the service.

More stories at
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go to htxt.co.za

ETHIOPIANS TAKE TO FACEBOOK TO FREE ZONE 9 BLOGGERS

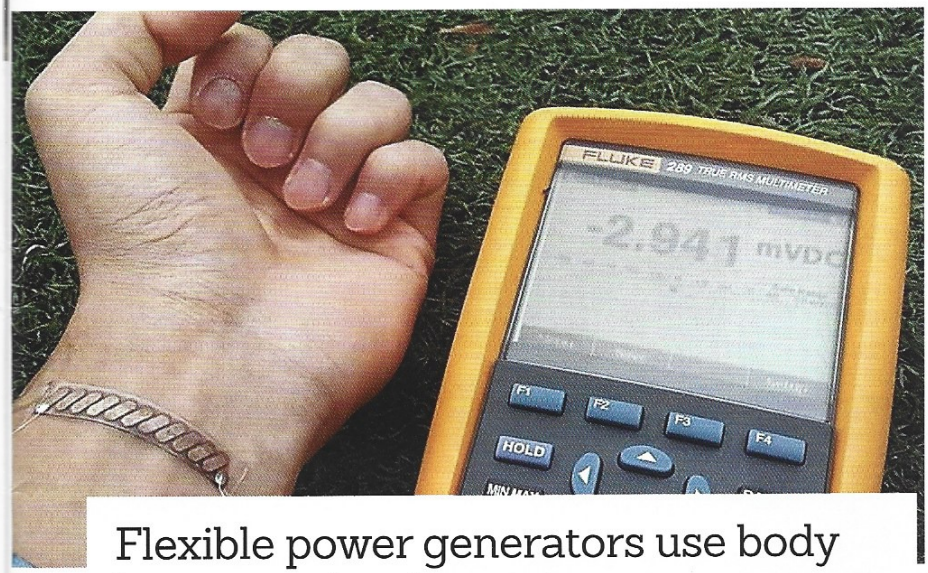
While we enjoyed Freedom Day celebrating our rights, the Ethiopian government was rounding up journalists and bloggers without charge.
Bit.ly/1iijGoB

HULU TO BLOCK OVERSEAS VIEWERS, IS SA AFFECTED?

TV streaming service Hulu, which offers online video to US web browsers, is reportedly stepping up its attempts to block viewers from overseas.
Bit.ly/1nemsmA

Amazon buys digital comics store comiXology

Amazon has just taken another major step in sewing up the entire spectrum of the digital media distribution market with the announcement that it has acquired digital comics book store comiXology. The comic book seller has over 50 000 titles available for download from more than 75 different publishers including the massive collections of the two industry powerhouses, Marvel and DC Comics, which makes comiXology one of the biggest names in the comic book business let alone in the digital distribution of them. ComiXology offers free viewing apps for iPad, iPhone, Android, Kindle Fire as well as Windows 8 with a built in store front that strongly resembles the way Amazon has set up its Kindle digital book ecosystem. The comiXology store front also allows comic book creators to self publish and sell their comics, which is another similarity in that it has to the way Amazon does business with its self-publishing platform for Kindle books.



Flexible power generators use body heat to make electricity

Scientists at the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology have made a new kind of thermal-electric (TE) power generator that could be the breakthrough that leads to body heat powered flexible wearable technology coming much sooner than you think. TE power generators are not new technology, however the team has managed to overcome one of the bigger hurdles that has prevented TE from being viable for use in wearable technology. For wearable technology you want a generator that is both flexible, so that it can conform to the individual shape of each wearer while still being able to produce enough energy to power the gadget. TE generators can be made from either lightweight, organic materials which are flexible, but can't generate as much energy as the bulky, rigid and heavy TE generators made from inflexible, inorganic materials. The team from KAIST managed to create an inorganic TE generating paste which was printed onto a piece of fabric essentially creating a flexible, inorganic TE generator that solved the problems mentioned above.

Africa Check
Sorting fact from fiction

Africa Check picks up R2.6m cheque from Omidyar

Africa Check, the South African website that trawls through the claims of politicians and the media to independently verify their truth, has been given a $250K (R2.6m) grant by the Omidyar Foundation for its work. Omidyar also supports other civic and digital democracy initiatives like JoziHub and The Intercept. The latter is a news site which employs Glenn Greenwald, the journalist who broke the Edward Snowden story. Africa Check has been up and running for 18 months, in which time it has attracted half a million visitors to its site and been referenced in countless news stories. The organisation is currently running a 4 000 Euro (R57 638) award program for other news organisations that reveal false information being disseminated in the public domain by the powerful. Recent stories published by Africa Check itself include a look at the DA's election claims for its work so far in the Western Cape, and an investigation into the reality of land reform since 1994 behind officially released figures. According to Africa Fact Check director Peter Cunliffe-Jones, the new money will be spent extending the organisation's role into West and East Africa.

ELON MUSK CONFIRMS HISTORIC SPACEX LANDING, SUES US AIR FORCE

Elon Musk has confirmed that his company SpaceX successfully landed the booster rocket used to launch its latest mission last week.
Bit.ly/1mv2CQ2

IFTTT BRINGS ITS TASK MAGIC TO ANDROID

Popular web automation service 'If This Then That' (IFTTT) has finally released an Android version of its app, and added six new features.
Bit.ly/1nYHKo7

SOUTH AFRICANS CRASH INTO THE MOON

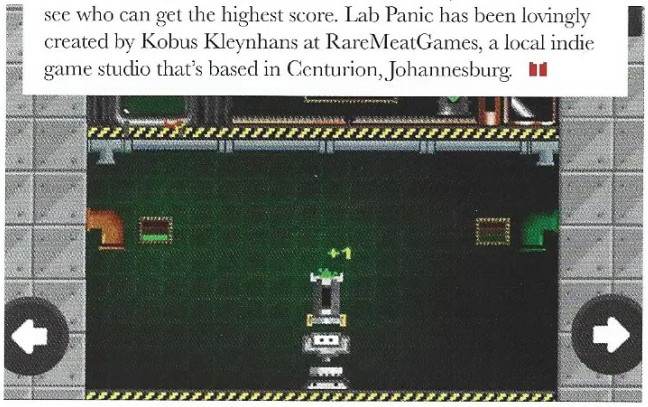
NASA's Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) probe intentionally smashed into the lunar surface last Thursday.
Bit.ly/1gXc3UL

Download Tap the Coin, a new "made in SA" game

Thoopid, the South African developer behind Snailboy have just released a new game for iOS called Tap the Coin. Fans of mobile games will immediately see the similarity between it and the recent phenomenon that is Flappy Bird, as Tap the Coin is another screen-tapping game that is easy in concept but in reality incredibly difficult to master. The core principle is that players must tap the screen at the right moment to keep a coin bouncing up and down in the air. The challenge comes in first mastering the necessary timing, and then adapting to new coins that fly in from the left and right. Tap the Coin is free and available on iTunes, with a version for Android "Coming Soon".

SA-developed indie game Lab Panic now on the Google Play Store

Lab Panic is a free, retro-styled arcade game that will challenge your reflexes and real-time management skills. It's not overly complex: all you have to do is guide Sam the maintenance bot to contain the liquid waste coming from the labs above him, and then dump any liquid he's caught into waste bins. The problem is, he can only store three drops of liquid in his liquid reservoir, so care must be taken to balance dumping moves with collecting, lest Sam miss a drop and contaminate the entire lab. And the better you get, the faster the liquid spills. As with many fun but addictive games, the controls are simple but mastering its mechanics can be quite the challenge, especially when things speed up. The point of Lab Panic is to let you compete head to head with your friends to see who can get the highest score. Lab Panic has been lovingly created by Kobus Kleynhans at RareMeatGames, a local indie game studio that's based in Centurion, Johannesburg.



Sony's H1Z1 zombie-themed MMO announced

Sony has just announced a free-to-play MMO called H1Z1. It was shown off by Sony Online Entertainment president John "Smed" Smedley on a gaming show called Game Talk Live. It has zombies in it, for starters, but more importantly it has player-based creation, meaning people can collect resources and make stuff out of them, a la Minecraft/7 Days to Die, including fortifications, houses, warehouses and weapons. Players will also be able to set things alight, and use fire to cook, destroy scenery and defend themselves. The point is to let people build stuff that will help them survive just like they would in a real-world zombie apocalypse. Smed says they will have multiple servers up that have drastically different rule sets, which presumably means those that like making life difficult for others can play on their own servers, while people who want to make stuff and survive on their own ingenuity can play on others.

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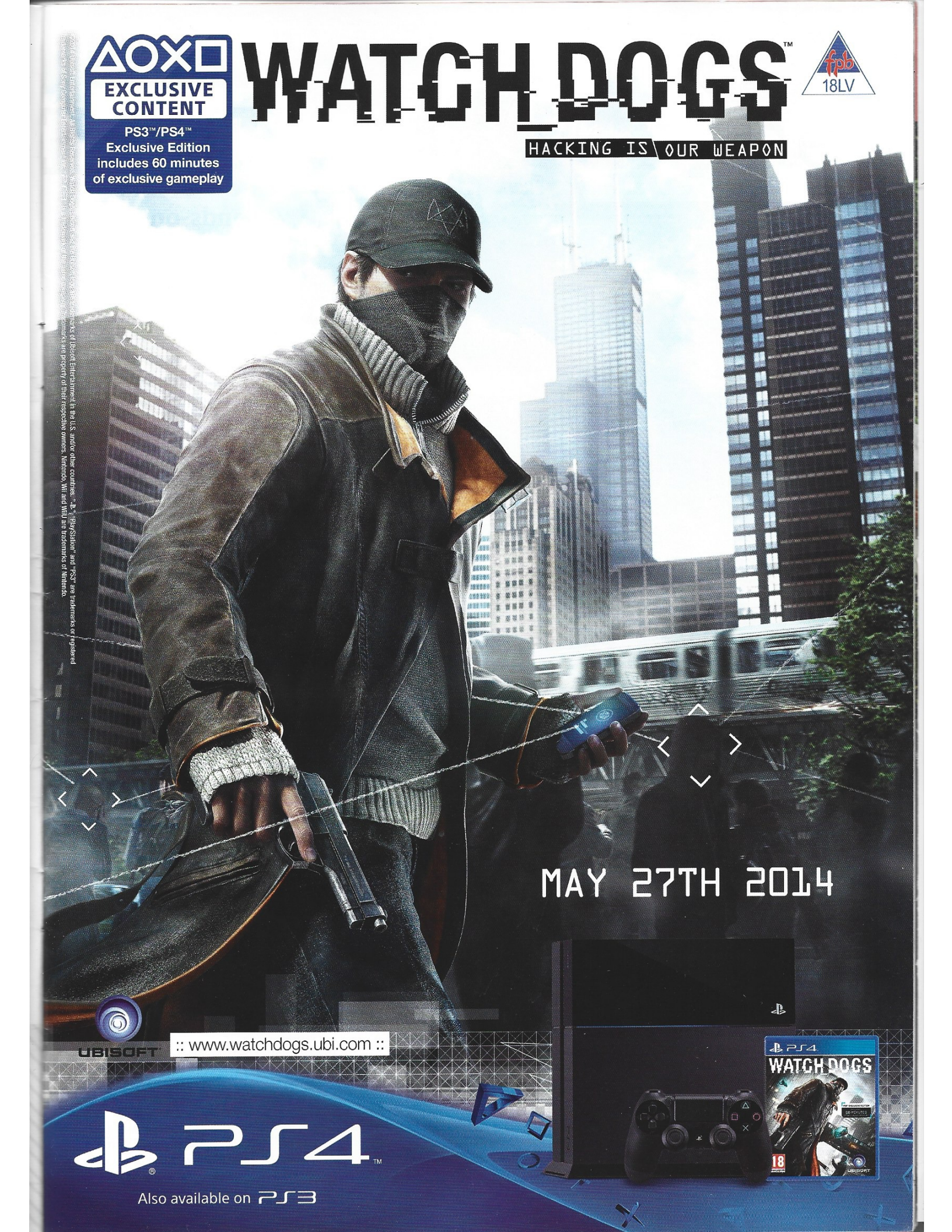
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A hands-on first impression with Bethesda's newest online offering

In case you don't know, The Elder Scrolls Online (TESO) is a massively-multiplayer online (MMO) game set in the Elder Scrolls universe, featuring the same lore, weapons, landscapes, enemies and magic (as well as new ones, obviously) as those seen in Skyrim and the four games that preceded it. The world is huge, comprising of several provinces in the land of Tamriel, and TESO incorporates nearly all of them.

Only now, thanks to the internet you can roam the land with friends, find strangers to play with or just ignore everyone and do your own thing, all in a gloriously-rendered new interpretation of the lands, people and politics of Tamriel.

Presentation-wise, it's hard to fault what Bethesda and the Zenimax Online Team have done; The Elder Scrolls Online is clearly an Elder Scrolls game through and through. We were gobsmacked by the game's visuals: the buildings, scenery, NPCs, other players, they all looked amazing, with plenty of detail and lots of care and attention poured into making them all look unique.

Of course, there is always a bit of room for improvement in places - some of the game's textures, particularly in the landscapes, look a little low-res. Then again concessions have to be made somewhere so that the game doesn't ship on ten Blu-ray disks; as it is, The Elder Scrolls Online is a massive 30GB download.

More news at htxt.africa
go to htxt.co.za

GET THE FIRST AND LAST OF THE WALKING DEAD FOR R175

The pay-what-you-want indie publisher Humble Bundle is offering a selection of seven volumes of comic books from publisher Image Comics.
Bit.ly/Q65wQn

AFRIHOST HAVING DSL AUTHENTICATION PROBLEMS

Internet Service Provider Afrihost is currently experiencing problems authenticating some of its DSL clients
Bit.ly/1kCyklz

Elder Scrolls Online

That said, just walking from place to place is a pleasure, as there is so much to see and do thanks to an interesting landscape that's full of things to look at, and quests that you'll often stumble upon by chance. That's another thing we noticed - everywhere you go, things are happening, quests are available, and there's a sense that this truly is a living, breathing world.

> *"Everywhere you go, things are happening, quests are available, and there's a sense that this truly is a living, breathing world."*

Looking a the combat, there is a host of weapons to choose between, all of them Elder Scrolls staples - swords, daggers, axes, maces and more. And in a nod to MMO design, Bethesda added various combat abilities, like special strikes, healing, buffs and more. These are unlocked with skill points that become available when your character levels up, and are improved through use.

If you're worried that having real people in an Elder Scrolls game will ruin the vibe, don't. You can ignore the people around you, or join in on random dungeon crawls without saying a word to anyone. Connectivity and server stability are a challenge for any new MMO, and The Elder Scrolls Online has its share. That aside, TESO is a great release from Bethesda and well worth shelling out $14.99 (around R150) a month to play when your free 30 days are up.

SA GAMES DEVS WANT TO DO A HUMBLE AFRICA BUNDLE

MGSA is in talks with the people behind the Humble Bundle to put together an "Out of Africa" bundle featuring locally-made games.
Bit.ly/1rVhg4J

WATERY INSTALLATION TURNS SMSES INTO INDOOR RAIN

Nedbank put together an enormous installation in Sandton City last month, with an indoor fountain that spells out savers dreams when you SMS them to it.
Bit.ly/1iifRQ6

THE PHONECAMERA IS BACK WITH SAMSUNG'S NEW GALAXY K ZOOM

The Galaxy K Zoom (the 'K' stands for Kamera) packs a new 20.7 megapixel camera sensor and 10X optical zoom into a much changed frame.
Bit.ly/1hs00Pv

5 home network essentials

Tired of struggling to get your laptop online because of dodgy WiFi or poor wiring? Here's five things that will make your home network better.

STEAM IN-HOME STREAMING

Valve Software just added a fantastic feature to Steam. Sign up for the latest beta (under Settings) and you stream your games from one PC to another over the same network. It's ridiculously easy to do, and means that if you have one game installed on a high powered games rig, you can play it on any low-end laptop anywhere in the house.

Free
Bit.ly/1kOt5XG

BELKIN N300 RANGE EXTENDER

Can't get WiFi signal in your bathroom? You can either move your router or pick up one of these. Belkin's range extender picks up the signal from your existing WiFi network and bounces it out the back - effectively doubling the reach.

R1 000
Bit.ly/1nkRnNS

WD LIVE TV

Home networks are great, but are you sure you're using yours to its full capacity? Western Digital's awesome little AV player plugs into your TV and plays back music and movies stored on other computers around your house. If you watch a lot of digital content, this (or something like it) is utterly essential.

R1 499
Bit.ly/1mFPLip

TRENDNET POWERLINE 500 AV

Wireless is wonderful, but it's not infallible. Interference from other networks or bits of kit causes havok with connections, and if you're out of range of your router there's not many choices open to you.

Enter powerline networking, which lets you beam ethernet signals between standard plug-points. It's not cheap, but it is convenient and more than a bit awesome.

R1 363
Bit.ly/1qhFSJd

ASUS 802.11AC WIRELESS AC1750 GIGABIT ROUTER

The next big thing in networking is Wireless AC. It's basically a new revision to the standard that gave us Wireless N and is up to three and a half times as fast as current wireless devices. Of course, you'll need WiFi adaptors on the rest of your kit that also use AC to make the most of it, but it is backwards compatible.

R3 379
Bit.ly/1s6ulZ1

There is nothing quite like the feeling of losing your phone... and then finding it again.

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THE KASPERSKY LAB TEAM

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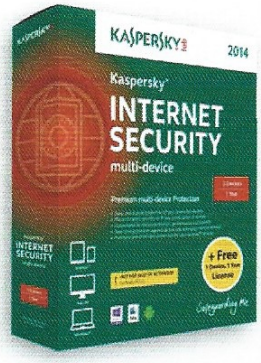

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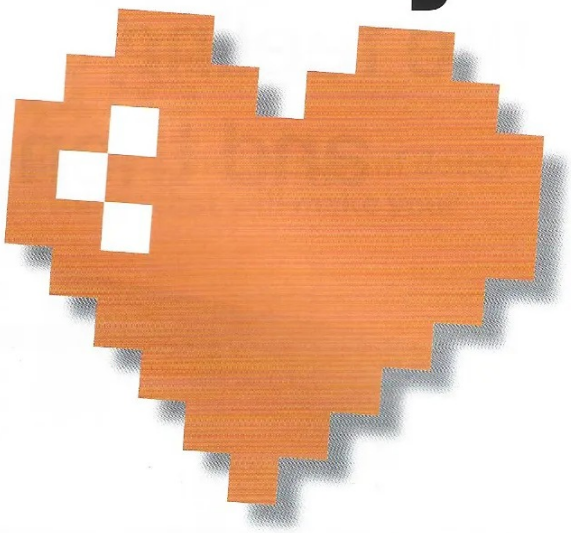

htxt.africa

Our daily news website

We really hope you're enjoying this issue of htxt.africa's Tech Made Easy, because we think it's a unique magazine in South Africa in that it's completely independent, 100% locally made and full of expert advice that's both comprehensive and accessible no matter how familiar you are with the subject.

The thing is, we're also fairly sure that you'll be left wanting more. Which is why you should head over to htxt.africa now.

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Tech Made Easy is just a small subsection of what we do on our main website. Every day we carry South Africa's best news about technology, gadgets, games, business start-ups, geek culture and more. We have the broadest editorial remit of any similar site in the country, and we're passionate with it. We believe that all across Africa, technology is changing lives - and that the more we write about it and the more you read about it the better the chance is that it will be for the better.

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htxt.africa

www.htxt.co.za

Live from South Africa: Tech, Culture, Games, Geeks, more

WHICH... Printer SHOULD YOU BUY?

The so-called "experts" who predicted the rise of the paperless office back in the 90s couldn't have been more wrong!

There are more printers on store shelves now than before as well, so knowing what you need - or what each printer can do versus its advertised claims - can be quite a challenge. So we rounded up five vastly different printers (from five different companies) and put them through their paces to see what each could do. Our aim was to gather the necessary data so that we could deliver a verdict on each to tell you what they're good at, so that you can make up your mind about whether they fit your needs or not. That means this isn't a shoot-out; we're not comparing all models against one another, because it wouldn't be an apples-to-apples comparison which wouldn't be fair to any of them. This is simply an informative roundup of some of the printer options open to South Africans, and our experiences with each.

OKI MC342W MULTI-FUNCTION LASER OFFICE PRINTER

THE MC342W CHURNS OUT PRINTS LIKE A CHAMP AFTER A BIT OF A WARM-UP!

OKI's MC342w is a fast laser multi-function printer for small businesses. It's been designed for light to medium workloads involving many multi-page documents and impatient staff who want their prints sooner rather than later. On top of its flatbed scanner it has a paper feeder for multi-page scans and copies, and down below you'll find a generous paper tray that holds up to 350 sheets of 80gsm paper in total. It has a built-in fax modem in case you still need to fax scanned documents to that backward client who refuses to get email, and a robust keypad with big, easily-pressable keys. The old adage that fashion is cyclic is nowhere more on show than here: the MC342w looks like a throwback to the 1990s, with its cream-colour plastic and grey trim and its monochrome non-touch LCD screen. It's also a rather large machine, and thus far better-suited to a formal office environment than it is to occupying a spot in your home. Getting the printer installed once it has been liberated from its packaging is a simple matter of installing its toner cartridges (itself an easy process) and running the CD that comes with it and following the prompts. As it's a laser printer, the MC342w is an excellent productivity tool. While it takes a bit of time to warm up when it hasn't been in use for a while, when it gets going it's fast. It's also excellent at copying and scanning documents thanks to its easily-loaded document feeder and quick, intelligently-arranged buttons. OKI knows what they are doing when it comes to speed. The MC342w churns out prints like a champ after a bit of a warm-up, with our test document coming out at the 27s mark, with all 28 remaining pages finishing just 72 seconds later at 97s.

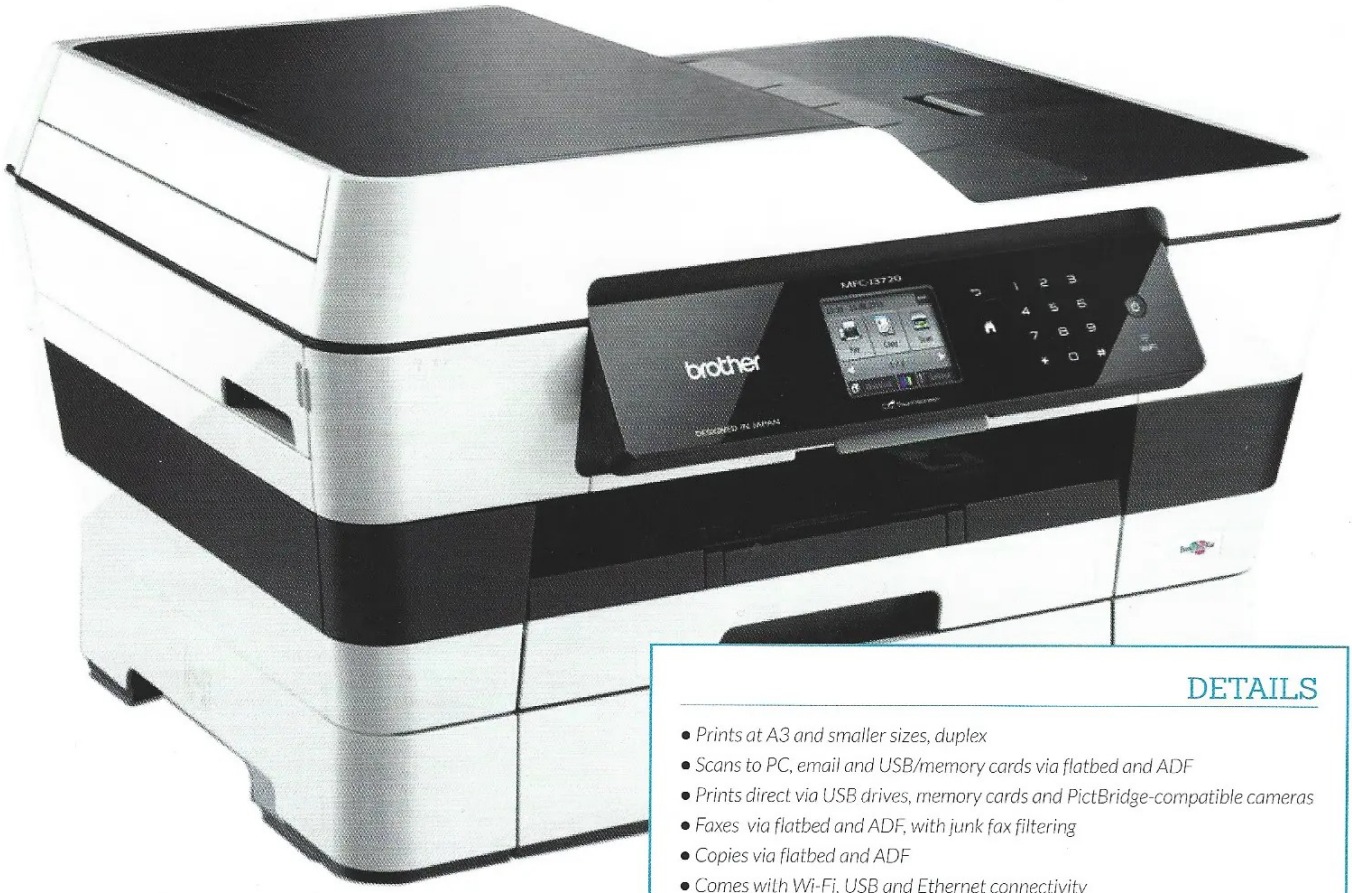
The MC342w has a recommended retail cost of R5 610, and each of its three 1 500-page colour toner cartridges will cost you R1 054 each, and the 2200-page black toner goes for R1011. That makes its running costs quite high, as a full set of toners that prints 6 700 pages will cost you R4 173, making its going rate 62c per page.

If it's primarily razor-sharp text you're looking for and a bit of colour for the occasional presentation, letterhead or general office document, you'll like this printer's output.

DETAILS

- *Prints at A4 and smaller sizes, duplex*
- *Scans to PC, email and USB sticks via flatbed and ADF*
- *Faxes via flatbed and ADF*
- *Copies via flatbed and ADF*
- *Has Wi-Fi, USB and Ethernet*
- *Has an automatic document feeder*
- *Supports Apple's Airprint, Microtech Corp's ePrint remote printing features*

From R5 610



DETAILS

- *Prints at A3 and smaller sizes, duplex*
- *Scans to PC, email and USB/memory cards via flatbed and ADF*
- *Prints direct via USB drives, memory cards and PictBridge-compatible cameras*
- *Faxes via flatbed and ADF, with junk fax filtering*
- *Copies via flatbed and ADF*
- *Comes with Wi-Fi, USB and Ethernet connectivity*
- *Has an automatic document feeder*
- *Supports Apple's Air Print, Google's Cloud Print, Brother's iPrint&Scan App*

From R3 999

BROTHER MFC-J3520 MULTI-FUNCTION INKJET OFFICE PRINTER

A3 PRINTING IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE ACE UP THIS PRINTER'S SLEEVE

Brother's J3520 is an all-rounder of note, able to print documents and images with its inkjet technology at up to A3 sizes, while also offering scanning, faxing and copying facilities. Its touchscreen makes getting to the option you're looking for a matter of reading and pressing, and the automatic document feeder lets you copy long documents without having to stand at the printer the whole time, changing pages. Brother's included management software will also let you manage scans and faxes from your PC, and printing from phones and tablets is possible through the printer's support for Apple and Google's popular Air Print and Google Cloud Print services.

The front panel is completely black when not in use, and its well-hidden buttons only light up when they're needed - the rest of the time, you can't even see that they're there. Once the Brother is unpacked and the ink cartridges installed (printed instructions included and easy to follow), the hard work is mostly done. The touchscreen makes it incredibly easy to connect the J3520 to your wireless network, but if you don't have one there's an Ethernet port for a cabled connection or you can connect to it over USB. The included CD will help you set it up on your Mac or Windows PC; once the CD starts automatically, you'll be promoted to go through a brief setup process that installs the driver, and you're done.

A3 printing is undoubtedly the ace up this printer's sleeve. It's priced in a similar range to the other printers here, putting it at a huge advantage and it's not bad at photo printing either, surprising for a printer intended for office use. It also lets you manage your scans and faxes from your computer, letting you manually manage which faxes to print and where to save scans.

At draft settings, the printer absolutely flies, churning out prints at just over 20 pages per minute in both mono and colour. Setting it to finer quality, the speed drops quite a lot - we saw our test document's time drop from a very impressive 87 seconds down to 118 seconds. Surprisingly, this Brother's running costs aren't that bad. Its up-front cost might be a bit intimidating, but at R349 per colour cartridge and R399 per black and A4 page yields of 1200 and 2400 respectively, it works out to around 24c per page.

PRINT FAR MORE
PAY EVEN LESS

Epson L550 All-In-One Ink Tank System Printer

No more cartridges. Ideal for small business and home use, Epson's new range of all-in-one ink tank system printers come with enough ink to print up to 12,000 black and 6,500 colour pages[1]. With an integrated ink tank and 70ml ink bottles for easy refilling, the Epson L Series printers deliver high quality printing at an ultra-low-cost.

Find out more: www.epson.co.za/inktanksystem

For more details please call Ryan Hodgskin on 083 600 9599

[1] For information on page yields visit www.epson.eu/pageyield
[2] For more information visit www.epson.co.za/inktanksystem

Original Ink Tank System

EPSON®
EXCEED YOUR VISION

HP DESKJET INK ADVANTAGE 4645 INKJET PRINTER

PRINT MORE AT A LOWER COST THANKS TO SPECIAL INKS AND REDESIGNED PRINTHEAD TECHNOLOGY

The 4645 is aimed squarely at home and small office users, and HP has designed it to do a bit of everything. It's not super-fast, but its text, image and photo quality is really good for the price, and WiFi connectivity means you can set it up anywhere you get WiFi signal. There is no cabled option, however, so a WiFi network is a must.

HP is definitely not resting on its laurels in terms of printer design, and so the 4645 looks like a next-gen home and office printer with sleek lines, lovely soft-touch buttons and a nice, clear colour LCD screen. It hides its paper tray quite well, too, as it slots in almost invisibly underneath the printer and the automatic document feeder has quite a low profile, giving the 4645 a rather compact, lean look.

HP has made it as easy as possible to set the 4645 up, with clear printed instructions for the manual unpacking and ink-installation processes, and an install CD that does all the hard work for you.

The Ink Advantage system makes HP's 4645 more special than your average inkjet, as that means lowered running costs compared to HP's other inkjet office printers. Ink Advantage cartridges are cheaper than non Ink Advantage cartridges which is a great start, but they can also print more pages for the same amount of money spent. Its individual cartridges don't print a huge amount, though - you're looking at 360 pages per black cartridge and 200 pages per colour cartridge according to HP's official yield figures - but then at R149 and R110 respectively, they are more affordable than other HP inkjet printers with cartridges that cost a lot more. Essentially the 4645 makes it affordable for a home or office user to print the occasional document and photo at a very high quality, without breaking the bank.

The 4645's text is crisp and sharp, and colours are very close to what you see on-screen when you hit Print. Photos look really good, too, although not quite as nice as the L550 which produced sharper detail and somewhat more natural colours (particularly skin tone). The 4645's quality is still more than good enough for printing the occasional photo, of course. Its up-front cost is affordable at R1699, but at R259 for 560 pages you're looking at 46c per page.

DETAILS

- *Prints A4 and smaller, duplex (automatic)*
- *Scans via flatbed and ADF*
- *Faxes via flatbed and ADF*
- *Copies via flatbed and ADF*
- *Prints Photos*
- *Has WiFi and USB connectivity*
- *Supports mobile printing via HP ePrint*

From R1 699

EPSON L550 MULTI-FUNCTION OFFICE INKJET PRINTER

THE INK TANK SYSTEM IS WHAT SETS IT APART FROM EVERY OTHER PRINTER OUT THERE.

The L550 is easily the most interesting of the bunch. It uses Epson's new Ink Tank System instead of traditional inkjet cartridges which is how it's able to print over 6 000 pages per set of ink bottles at a ridiculously low cost per page. It's fairly basic in other ways - it has no fancy colour touchscreen or WiFi connectivity, for example - but if it's low-cost printing you're after it's honestly the cheapest option in town over time. It comes with an automatic document feeder, a conservative paper tray and is a great choice for low-cost home office prints in both black and colour.

Epson loses points with the L550's very pedestrian design. This is another company whose design principles seem rooted in another era - it's full of horrible buttons, it has a drab two-line LCD screen and the plastic they used to make it feels rather flimsy and doesn't look particularly nice. Undoubtedly, the L550's Ink Tank System is what sets it apart from every other printer out there. What will catch a lot of people, though, is the price - the up-front cost is quite high for a printer that looks like the L550 does - but you need to keep in mind that once that's out of the way, the L550 will pay for itself in the long term, because refilling its ink tanks will only cost you a few hundred rand but give you around 6 000 prints. Epson knows a thing or two about keeping text razor-sharp, with no visible running of the ink even on bog-standard plain paper, and even more about photo printing. The L550 does a great job of putting out accurately-coloured, highly-detailed prints and is especially good at high-resolution printing. You might wait longer for it to finish printing, but the results are definitely worth the wait. Even on its Standard settings, the L550 puts out great-quality text and images. At R129 per coloured ink bottle and R149 for each black, you're looking at R536 for 6 000 pages, which works out to a crazy-low 9c per page. That more than makes up for its surprisingly-steep up-front cost.

DETAILS

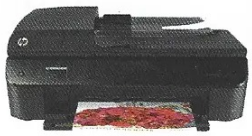
- *Prints at A4 and smaller sizes, manual duplex*
- *Scans via flatbed and ADF*
- *Faxes via flatbed and ADF*
- *Copies via flatbed and ADF*
- *Comes with USB and Ethernet connectivity*
- *Supports mobile printing via Epson iPrint*
- *Has an automatic document feeder*
- *Uses an Ink Tank System*

From R3999

THE END RESULTS

The printers we've had here are quite different from one another, but at least a few things became clear in our hands-on time with them. If you want a home printer for the occasional print, but you also would like to be able to print photos at a decent quality, the HP Ink Advantage 4645 is a fantastic choice even if its running costs aren't the lowest. If having the lowest-possible running cost for an office printer that's expected to handle a couple thousand pages a month is what you need, there really is no beating Epson's L550 thanks to its Ink Tank system that prints good quality documents and photos at an incredibly low cost per page. Building printers that use an easily-refillable ink tank system as opposed to limited-capacity cartridges is a stroke of genius on Epson's part, and will make a huge difference to your bottom line. If you want to get an inkjet printer specifically for a small to medium-sized office that looks brilliant and produces great-looking documents and photos, Brother's MFC-J3750 is a solid option. Lastly, the OKI. It's got all the features a serious small to medium-sized office needs, plus it delivers great quality at high speeds. It might look like a photocopier from the 90s and its running costs a bit on the high side, but beneath that retro exterior beats the heart of a high-quality productivity machine that'll keep your business printing and your staff not queuing for their documents.

CATEGORY WINNERS AT A GLANCE



	HP Deskjet Ink Advantage 4645 Inkjet Printer	Brother MFC-J3520 Multi-function Inkjet Office Printer	Epson L550 Multi-function Office Inkjet Printer	OKI MC342w Multi-function Laser Office Printer
Speed				●
Build		●		●
Ease of Setup	●			
Quality (Text)				●
Quality (Photo)			●	
Quality (Overall)	●			
Price (Initial purchase)	●			
Price (Total Cost of Ownership)			●	
Price (Cost per page)			●	
Business Features				●
Paper Sizes		●		

Professional colour
Professional savings

Print at up to 50% less cost per page than laser

HP Officejet Pro 8600

Starting from R2499.00 incl. VAT

The HP Officejet Pro 8600 e-All-in-One series printers give your business professional colour at up to 50% lower cost per page and energy use than laser.[1,2] And with automatic two-sided printing and copying, it also saves paper. Enjoy accelerated productivity with HP ePrint – allowing you to print from virtually anywhere[3] – plus a large touchscreen with access to business apps.[4] Save money on ink with four high-capacity individual ink cartridges that allow for individual replacement.[5] And boost productivity with versatile e-All-in-One performance.

1 Cost-per-page (CPP) claim based on the majority of colour laser printers <R 2600 excluding VAT, colour laser AIOs <R 5200 excluding VAT, Sept/2012. For details, see hp.com/eu/officejetpro. 2 Majority of colour laser AIOs < R5400. August 2012. OJ Pro 150 yield with highest-capacity cartridges. Energy use based on HP testing. For details, see http://www.hp.com/go/officejet. 3 Requires an Internet connection to HP web-enabled printer and HP ePrint account registration (for a list of eligible printers, supported documents and image types and other HP ePrint details, see www.hp.com/go/eprintcenter). Mobile devices require Internet connection and email capability. May require wireless access point. Separately purchased data plans or usage fees may apply. Print times and connection speeds may vary. 4 Requires a wireless access point and an Internet connection to the printer. Services require registration. App availability varies by country, language and agreements, and requires a firmware upgrade. For details, www.hp.com/go/eprintcenter.

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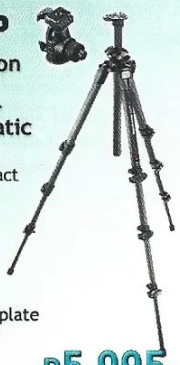
DIY Studio Specials

Manfrotto

055CXPRO4 4-Section Pro Carbon Fibre/ Magnesium Tripod + 468MGRC2 Hydrostatic Ball Head



- 4-section tripod is compact & light
- Includes the patented Q90 system
- Maximum height extended: 170cm
- Maximum load: 8kg
- Hydrostatic ball head
- Quick release 200PL top plate
- Magnesium die cast body

was R9 995 now **R5 995**

Manfrotto

055XPROB Tripod + 322RC2 Action Ball Head and 80P Bag Kit

- Maximum height extended: 188.8cm
- Maximum height centre column closed: 152.3cm
- Minimum height: 20.3cm
- Closed length: 75.8cm
- Weight: 3.1kg
- Maximum load: 5kg

was R6 395 now **R4 295**

elinchrom

creative image lighting technology

20844.2 D-Lite RX ONE Umbrella To Go Kit

- 2 x D-Lite RX One (20485.1)
- 1 x EL-Skyport Transmitter speed (19350)
- 1 x Sync Cable 5m (11088)
- 2 x Protective Cap (26124)
- 2 x Umbrella White Reflector 90° 16cm (26143)
- 1 x Pro White Umbrella 85cm (26372)
- 1 x Tube Carry Bag (33194)
- 1 x Stand Set (30162) with 2x stand 88-235cm, carry bag

was R9 995 now **R6 995**

Godox

Studio Flash Kit with 3 Studio Flash

- 3 x Stands
- 1 x Umbrella
- 1 x SoftBox
- 1 x Barn Door Kit
- Remote and Bag

was R8 995 now **R6 895**

Godox

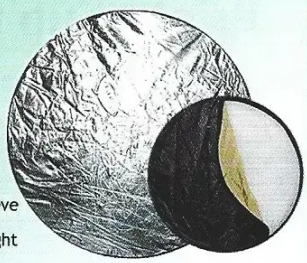
QL-1000 Kit

Godox 1000W Quartz Light Kit

was R5 295 now **R3 895**

Godox

5 in 1 Reflector

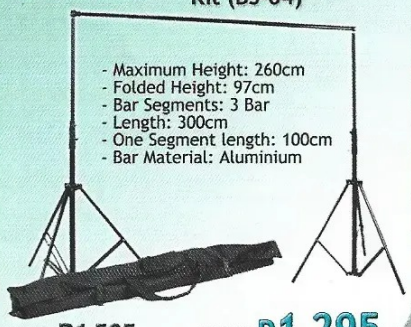


The 42" 5-in-1 Reflector Kit is the fastest, most affordable way to achieve diffused or reflective light

was R395 now **R295**

Godox

Background Stand Kit (BS-04)



- Maximum Height: 260cm
- Folded Height: 97cm
- Bar Segments: 3 Bar
- Length: 300cm
- One Segment length: 100cm
- Bar Material: Aluminium

was R1 595 now **R1 295**

Godox

LP-800x Battery Pack

- 3 x USB Ports to power Devices ie : Ipad/laptop
- Lithium Iron phosphate (LFP) Battery
- Power 3 x 300W/s Studio Flash Heads for 400 Full Power Flashes

was R11 995 now **R9 995**

GOSSEN

Digiflash Light Meter 2

- Reads Flash and Ambient Light
- LCD Screen
- SBC Sensor

was R4 795 now **R2 795**

GARY FONG

Lightsphere Collapsible with Speed Mount

- Softens Light from Shoe-Mounted Flash
- Collapses for Storage
- Interchangeable Dome System
- Strap with Hook-and-Loop Fasteners

now **R895**

Lastolite™ Professional

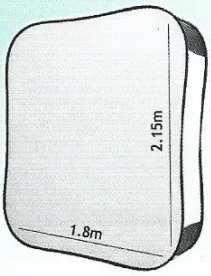
LA3696 Triflip 8:1

- 8 in 1 solution
- Allow the photographer to carry just one reflector instead of 8
- 2 Stop TriGrip Diffuser
- A set of two TriFlip's four in one sleeves

NEW **R1 995**

Lastolite™ Professional

LA8867 Hilite background



- 2.15m x 1.8m self standing backlit background
- Achieve 'High Key' photography on location and in restrictive spaces
- Background is illuminated so that the subject can stand virtually right in front of it without casting a shadow
- Collapses to 1/3 size for portability

NEW **R2 995**

All prices include VAT. All goods guaranteed by local supplier. E&OE.

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DETAILS

- **Display:** *5.1 inch, Super AMOLED HD display*
- **Operating System:** *Android 4.4.2 KitKat*
- **Memory:** *2GB RAM*
- **Storage:** *16GB (LTE model)/32GB (3G model) expandable by up to 128GB with microSD cards*
- **Camera:** *16 megapixel ISOCELL camera*
- **Other:** *Fingerprint scanner, heart-rate monitor, IP67 water and dust resistant*

R10 200

Samsung Galaxy S5

We put Samsung's superpowered smartphone through its paces

The Galaxy S5 is, of course, the successor to two of the fastest and best-selling Android smartphones ever made – the Galaxy S III and S4. There have been more than 200 million Galaxy S series phones sold to date, so there's a lot of pressure on the shoulders of the Galaxy S5 to succeed. While many have been clamouring for a radical overhaul of the Galaxy S4's design, the Galaxy S5 is less of a drastic departure and more of an evolution of what has come before it.

The only major change in layout is the replacement of the capacitive 'menu' button on the left of the home button with a multi-tasking button.

It's on the back of the Galaxy S5 where the most change has been made. Gone is the shiny plastic back cover of Galaxy phones past, replaced with a dimpled, soft-touch plastic cover similar to the kind used on last year's Galaxy Note 3.

The Galaxy S5 is now also IP67 rated which means that it is both dustproof and water resistant for depths of up to one meter for up to 30 minutes at a time which should sound like a blessing to anyone who has ever dropped a smartphone into the bath. The Galaxy S5 is packed full of the latest technology and like the S4 before it comes with a choice of two models, and LTE version and a 3G version which is sold by networks without an LTE service.

The Samsung Galaxy S5 runs on the latest version of Google's Android operating system and the new version of the home screen has the, Flipboard-like, curated news feature called 'My Magazine' that first showed up in last year's Note 3.

The Samsung Galaxy S5 is fitted with a new 5.1 inch full HD, 1080p, Super AMOLED HD display made by Samsung itself as well as a 16 megapixel camera.

From the 12 modes available in the S4, there are just six shooting modes available in the Galaxy S5 with additional modes needing to be downloaded.

The fingerprint reader and heart-rate sensor in the Galaxy S5 are two of the most-talked-about features in the phone. Up to three fingerprints can stored and used by the Galaxy S5 with a password also being entered to get around the lock screen if needed. The heart-rate monitor works superbly – Samsung stores all of the information in its S Health app which has evolved to become a competitor to the like of Fitbit and Nike's apps with exercise and food logging built in alongside the pedometer and heart rate monitoring stats. Even more good news is that when the Galaxy S5's battery does run flat it charges from 0% to full capacity in around two hours flat, faster still if the phone is left off while it charges.

While the design and the build of the Galaxy S5 may not have changed much over the last three years the Galaxy S5 represents a big upgrade from its predecessor in the most important areas. The bevy of additional extras that Samsung throw in with the Galaxy S5, the premium warranty, 1GB of WiFi a month at AlwaysOn hotspots, 50GB of Dropbox storage for two years and more, and the S5 starts to become even more enticing a proposition. Would we love an aluminium-clad, vanilla Android running Galaxy S5, of course we would, but does that stop it us from wanting to ditch our 2013 smartphones for the S5, not in the slightest. If you're a fan of Samsung's Galaxy S range of phones, the S5 will not disappoint you. For an extended review, visit **Bit.ly/1j7nWY0**

SCORES

Design	7
Performance	9
Battery Life	10
Value for Money	9
Display	9
Interface	8
Overall	9

Withings Pulse

DETAILS

- **Display:** *Large OLED screen with 128x32 resolution*
- **Weight:** *8 grams*

R 1 599

The Withings Pulse is an unobtrusive little device. It has a touchscreen display that lets you view all the recorded information, as well as a button at the top right to switch functions as you go through the day.

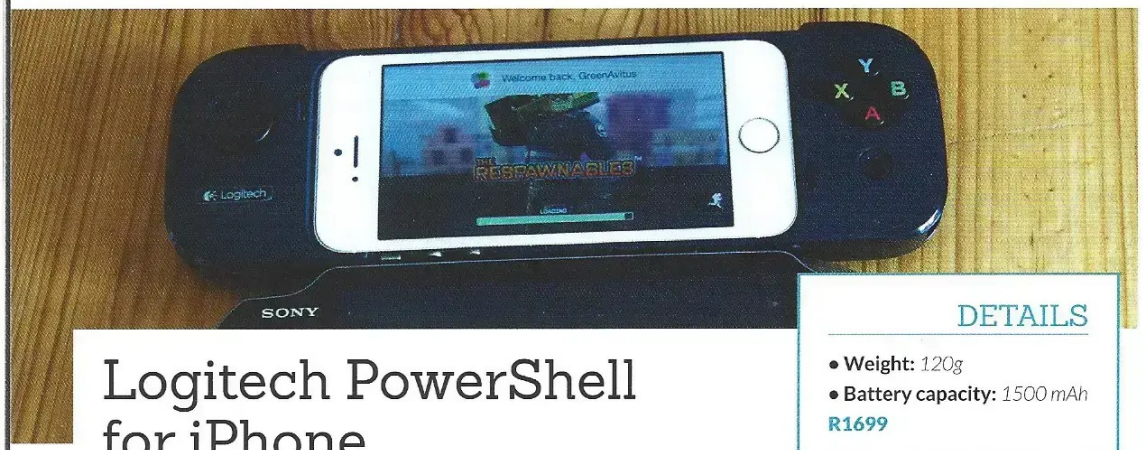
If you're looking at losing a few kilos, the Weight Goal function lets you type in how many kilos you want to trim down to and shows you how many you need to lose each week to reach that goal. There are three ways to attach the Withings Pulse to your body: you can either use the clip to attach it to your clothing, slip inside the wrist band and wear it like a watch or simply put it in your pocket.

The main functions are the heart rate monitor, sleep monitor, activity monitor, distance measure and calorie counter. Each of these, as well as the other features, fall under four sections where all your data is logged on the app daily: Weight, Activity, Sleep and Heart. Syncing the data from the pulse to the app requires a Bluetooth connection, which means it works even if there's no internet connection.

The Withings Pulse is perfectly sized and lightweight, it will motivate you to get more active as well as give you more insight into your overall health and fitness.

SCORES

Design	10
Performance	9
Value	9
Usability	8
Overall	**9**



Logitech PowerShell for iPhone

DETAILS

- **Weight:** *120g*
- **Battery capacity:** *1500 mAh*

R1699

The Logitech PowerShell, a game controller for all iPhone 5 variety smartphones as well as any of the iPod Touch models with a Lightning connector. For the most part, the PowerShell makes gaming a pleasure on an iPhone. There is also a long list of compatible mobile titles that seem to cater to every gamer's needs. The buttons have fantastic weight and feel to them and they inspire more confidence in gameplay but the imprecise nature of our review unit's D-pad let down gaming in a big way.

The Logitech PowerShell has a 1500mAh battery stowed away inside of it – a simple flip of the switch starts feeding power back into your iPhone not just maintaining its charge level but making sure that you have more battery when you're finished playing than when you started. It meant that a quick gaming session everyday at lunch time was no longer held up by concerns of not having enough charge by 5PM.

The biggest complaint we have about the Logitech PowerShell is the cost. However, if you're an avid iPhone gamer searching for a high score and prolonged battery life then the Logitech PowerShell is worth a look.

SCORES

Design	10
Performance	7
Battery	8
Value	4
Overall	**7**

More great gadgets at htxt.africa

Vodacom's new budget smartphone
Operator launches Smart 4 mini, bringing high performance to a very low price.
Bit.ly/1mR4Ppj

Hauwei's Ascend P7 is beautiful
The follow-up to last year's awesome Ascend P6 smartphone, the Ascend P7, was announced at a press event held in Paris.
Bit.ly/1skrBY8

Jawbone UP fitness tracker coming to SA this month
Nike may have pulled its health spy wristband, the Fuelband, but that doesn't mean wearables are dead.
Bit.ly/1g19FBB

Forget R499, ARM says R299 Android phone months away
ARM says that the $20 (R200) smartphone is only months away from reality.
Bit.ly/1ja8fFu

DETAILS

- **Display:** *7.9 inch IPS LCD display, 1536 x 2048 resolution, 324 ppi*
- **Memory:** *1GB*
- **Storage:** *16/32/64/128GB*
- **Camera:** *5 megapixel iSight rear, 1.2 megapixel FaceTime front camera*
- **Networking:** *Dual-band 802.11n, Bluetooth 4.0, LTE (Cellular models)*

Price: R4 900

Apple's iPad mini with Retina display

Dazzlingly diminutive tablet that's almost identical to its predecessor but with a super-def screen.

Last year's iPad mini was an introduction to Apple's new design language for its tablets. A combination of rounded edges and the relatively compact 7.9-inch display make the Retina iPad mini a pleasure for one-handed use. It's an especially useful trait for those who love reading books, browsing through web pages or skimming their social media feeds while doing other menial tasks.

While their displays differ in size, both the 7.9-inch Retina display in the iPad mini and its larger 9.7-inch counterpart in the iPad Air, share a display resolution of 2048×1536.

They both have dual-band 802.11n WiFi with MIMO (multiple input, multiple output) for faster connection speeds and low energy Bluetooth 4.0 to connect to peripherals. They even use the same five-element lens over the same 5 megapixel rear and the same 1.2 megapixel front cameras to handle imaging duties

And to power the iFamily, the latest processor from Apple, called the A7, along with the same 1GB of RAM that you would find in an iPhone 5s, although the iPad Air's A7 does differ slightly.

Being the latest generation of hardware from Apple means that the Retina iPad mini runs the latest version of Apple's mobile operating system.

The most recent updated to iOS7.1 fixed the minor irritation we had with the tiny button to clear notifications, but on the whole iOS still feels like it was built for the iPhone and just ported across to the iPads without optimising it first.

Small things like the app switcher, which works well on an iPhone's smaller display as a linear carousel of previews, feels stunted on an iPad. Surely the extra screen real estate would be better used to show four apps simultaneously.

However it's because of the near perfection of the rest of the package that we expect that extra layer of polish from Apple here too.

The Retina display in the iPad mini forms such a large part of the upgrade in this generation that it even warrants a mention in the product's name.

Apple has a knack for assembling products with fantastic LCD displays in them and the Retina iPad mini's display is just as exceptional.

Speaking of brightness, while the display has no problem in ratcheting up the brightness to combat direct sunlight, you will definitely notice your reflection staring back at you along with all of your fingerprints, which forced us into a mild OCD wipe down of the iPad mini every time we walked outside.

While Apple does tout the fantastic pictures you would get from the iPad mini's new 5 megapixel iSight camera and accompanying five-elements-lens, we found them to be average at best.

Even with the 4x increase in the number of pixels in the Retina display, Apple managed to retain the 10-hour battery life with a combination of a 50% increase in battery size over its predecessor, as well as the massive power-saving abilities of the new Apple A7 processor.

Browsing the web, reading mail and scrolling through social media made little to no observable dent in the battery life of the iPad mini. Even streaming video over a WiFi network or watching YouTube took little toll on the tablet's battery life.

The iPad mini with Retina display is simply the best tablet we've ever had to review. It offers a combination of fantastic design; build quality, performance and battery life that we seldom see in competing tablets.

SCORES

Design	9
Performance	10
Battery Life	9
Value for Money	8
Display	9
Interface	7
Overall	9

DETAILS

- **Publisher:** *Ubisoft*
- **Developer:** *Obsidian Entertainment/South Park Studios*
- **Platform:** *Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and PC*
- **The Good:** *Clever, funny and dirty as the best of South Park TV episode*
- **The Bad:** *Censorship, sometimes potentially offensive Nazi, adult content*

From R399

South Park: The Stick of Truth

He who controls the stick, controls the universe!

South Park: The Stick of Truth is basically a game-length episode of the TV show starring the foul-mouthed 8-year-olds we've come to know and love over the past 17 years re-done as a modern RPG, and it's as clever, funny and dirty as the best of the shows, if not even more so thanks to a good helping even more over-the-top jokes that not even fans of the show will see coming.

You play as "The New Kid", a new addition to the South Park kid population, and your over-arching quest is to become "cool". Doing that means you need to get in with the local kids, make friends with them on Facebook, and that's done by playing with them.

If you've seen the Lord of the Rings episode, you'll know exactly how Cartman and the gang play. They dress up as their favourite characters and tromp around town on various quests that they've made up in accordance with the game's theme, and that's exactly what happens here.

What makes The Stick of Truth so clever is that even though the kids are just "playing" at being whoever they are, the game treats them as if they are exactly that. The titular Stick of Truth is an item of great importance in the game you join; as Cartman says, he who controls the stick, controls the universe, and for the moment, the Stick is in the possession of Carman's faction, the Humans. Your task as the New Kid is to defend it from the Elves, headed up by Stan and Kyle. As the game progresses there's a lot of back-and-forth with the stick, ending in a climactic boss fight that has to be seen to be believed.

For most of the 15 or so hours you'll spend playing the first time through, you'll run around the town of South Park talking to people and getting sent on quests. The town has been lovingly recreated as an explorable locale made up of all of the show's iconic locations.

The game cleverly manages to avoid the " fetch quest" pitfall of many RPGs by involving as many of those characters as possible. As a result, the quests you go on are unique and interesting and generally give you something to laugh at along the way.

As with any RPG, there's a lot of fighting in The Stick of Truth. The game uses a turn-based system, and each of your characters have abilities that help you mill through the enemies you come up against. The combat does get a little repetitive towards the end of the game, but it's very good nonetheless. You can only have one companion with you at a time (you can choose from Butters, Kenny, Cartman, Kyle and Jimmy, each with their own special abilities), but even though you usually face more than two opponents, your weapons, their upgrades and your characters' abilities easily make up for it. Skill upgrades are unlocked by earning experience points through combat, while Perks are unlocked by making friends.

The art style is identical to the show's construction-paper look and feel. Even the achievements are hilarious, and well worth going after even if just for the laughs.

If you even remotely enjoy South Park the TV show and you love you a good RPG, we recommend South Park: The Stick of Truth enough.

SCORES

Graphics	7
RPG Elements	8
Outlandishness	10
Longevity	8
Value for money	8
Overall	8

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ALL EGGS IN ONE BASKET: YOSHI'S NEW ISLAND FOR 3DS

With each new game that gets released by Nintendo, there seem to be new tweaks and small ideas that make the latest in the series unmissable.
Bit.ly/1epsrSn

IN NEED OF A MANICURE, CASTLEVANIA: LORDS OF SHADOW 2

Castlevania: Lord of Shadows 2 (LoS2) starts right off where its predecessor ended: with dark and broody Gabriel Belmont becoming dark and broody Dracula.
Bit.ly/1n5XuFC

FUJIFILM

X-T1

There's no substitute.

FUJIFILM's acclaimed X-Series technology once again places you, the photographer, in the leading role, letting you capture any photographic moment exactly as you intended.

The central themes of the X-series are simplicity and elegance. The camera is a precision instrument, but one that's combined with a functional beauty. Now, this fusion has resulted in the new fagship of the X-series, the X-T1, and, like every model that's come before it, you'll fnd the joy of photography is hard-wired into its DNA, electrifying your instincts as a photographer, daring you to stretch your imagination and capture perfect images every time you shoot.

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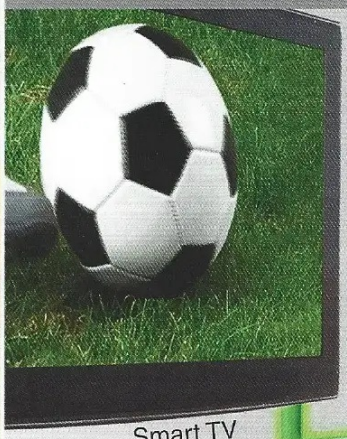
Smart TV

Floor 2

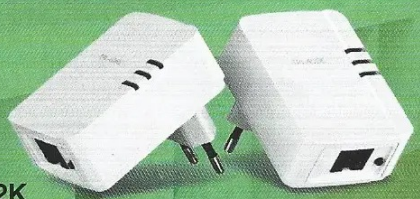
Powerline 500



Smart TV

Floor 1

Scan for video



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inFAMOUS Second Son

Gorgeous visuals, fun powers and a beautiful open world

DETAILS

- **Publisher:** *Sony*
- **Developer:** *Sucker Punch Productions*
- **Platform:** *PlayStation 4*
- **The Good:** *Choosing to be good or bad redefines the game world*
- **The Bad:** *Only specific parts of the world are breakable, only available on PS4*

R849

The inFAMOUS series is known for letting you play as a superpower-wielding hero type in a open-world setting, and Second Son delivers all that and much more. inFAMOUS Second Son casts players in the role of a young (and restless) Native American Indian called Delsin Rowe, who accidentally discovers he's a power sponge who's able to absorb and use the abilities of other "conduits", unusual people with amazing powers like the ability to manipulate objects and substances on a molecular level, turning them into weapons of mass destruction should they so wish.

This puts him on a collision course with the Department of Unified Protection, or DUP, the government agency responsible for containing such people (referred to by them as "bio-terrorists"), and also gives Delsin his primary enemy: an army soldiers and equipment to fight against and destroy.

The game takes place in Seattle, a large open world city that's controlled by the DUP, and it's up to Delsin and his brother Reggie to liberate the city, sector by sector. Doing that requires Delsin to undermine the DUP's authority by completing side-missions like tagging buildings with subversive messages, destroying hidden cameras and defeating DUP agents, thereby provoking them into showdowns. When Delsin wins each showdown, the DUP is effectively defeated in that area, removing their street patrols and allowing him to fast-travel between liberated sectors.

Delsin's ultimate goal is to track down the DUP agent responsible for injuring his tribe right at the beginning of the game, and absorbing her power so that he can make things right back home.

Starting out, Delsin can manipulate smoke. He can send himself through vents in smoke form to reach rooftops just that much quicker, fire smoke and cinder blasts at enemies, choke them with smoke bombs, and obliterate structures and vehicles with super-powerful Cinder Missiles.

The game also has an experience system that determines what "level" Delsin is; some upgrades require him to be a certain level while others require him to have either good or bad karma as well. Delsin's karma is affected by how you play – whether you're a cold-blooded killer or a more compassionate non-lethal subduer of enemies. You'll need to play through at least twice to get the full experience.

Being good or bad involves killing soldiers and civilians (bad) or disabling and healing them (good). Several missions are specifically tailored to each play style, too, and you must choose between them.

As you progress through the game's story, you'll come across a handful of bosses, extra-tough enemies who really don't go down easily. Defeating them is a matter of mastering all of the abilities you've been given up to those points, changing your tactics on the fly, exploiting the environment and making sure you don't take too much damage. As cool as Delsin's powers are, "not dying" isn't one of them so you'll definitely have to work for your victories, especially against bosses like the one below whose defeat demands good reflexes as well as great timing on your part.

inFAMOUS Second Son is by far the best game right now on the PS4, both in terms of how much fun it is and how nice it looks and sounds. If you own a PS4 and you want to see what Sony's hardware can really do, this is the game to buy right now. You won't regret it. For an extended review go to **Bit.ly/1obu2hV**

SCORES

Graphics	10
Fun Factor	9
Design	9
Longevity	8
Value for money	9
Overall	9

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ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD: THIEF

While this new game tries very hard to recapture everything that made Thief I and II great, ultimately it fails because of its gloomy, empty world.
Bit.ly/1kXjK08

BLOCK-BUSTING BRILLIANCE: THE LEGO MOVIE VIDEOGAME

LEGO games are always worth playing because they're clever, funny and so incredibly inventive all the way through, and this one is no exception.
Bit.ly/1gGgR3W

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Five fun Windows 8.1 games to play right now

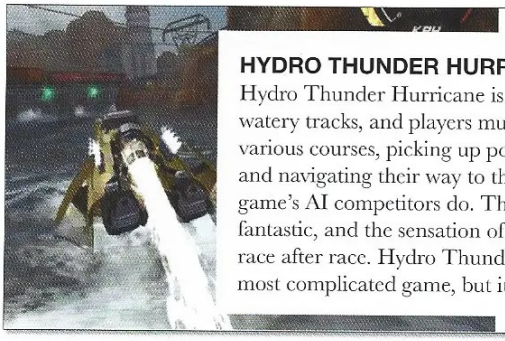
Here are five games worth trying out on your Windows 8 machine. All the games below either have free trials, or are free altogether.

HALO SPARTAN WARS

Spartan Assault puts players in the battle armour of a female Spartan, and tasks them with repelling the Covenant invasion of a hotly-contested planet. The game is played from a top-down isometric perspective, and employs twin-stick shooter controls. It's incredibly easy to pick up, and offers 25 missions to play through. Each one takes but a few minutes, but the game's scoring system makes it fun to re-play. ★★★★

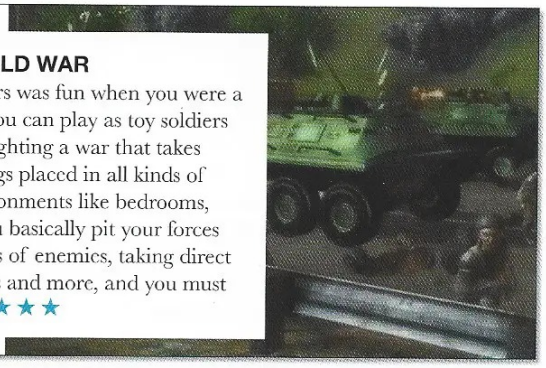
RAYMAN JUNGLE RUN

If you enjoy bite-sized platforming and enjoyable music, you're going to love Rayman Jungle Run. It's been cleverly designed to control using just one finger, and has you guiding Rayman through various jungle scenes, collecting lums. Controlling him literally couldn't be simpler, and the 40-odd levels look amazing and are fun to play. Classic platforming action is here for the enjoying, and the creative art style makes Rayman kid-friendly to boot. ★★★★★



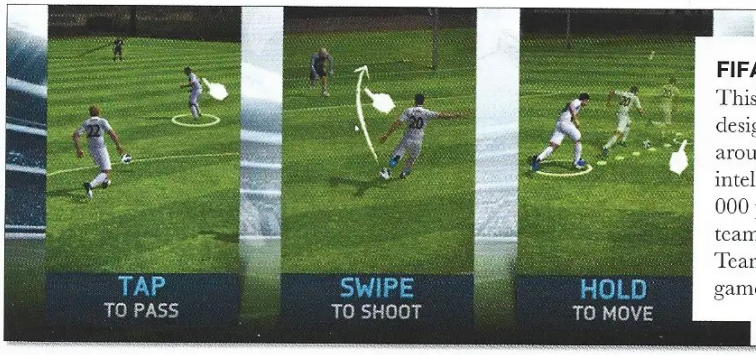
HYDRO THUNDER HURRICANE

Hydro Thunder Hurricane is a racing game set on watery tracks, and players must guide their boats around various courses, picking up power-ups, dodging obstacles and navigating their way to the finish line before the game's AI competitors do. The graphics and sound are fantastic, and the sensation of speed will hook you in, race after race. Hydro Thunder Hurricane is not the most complicated game, but it is a lot of fun. ★★★★



TOY SOLDIERS COLD WAR

Playing with toy soldiers was fun when you were a kid, right? Well, now you can play as toy soldiers come to life, to scale, fighting a war that takes place in tabletop settings placed in all kinds of regular, everyday environments like bedrooms, kitchens and more. You basically pit your forces against incoming waves of enemies, taking direct control of tanks, planes and more, and you must survive at all costs. ★★★★



FIFA 14

This iteration of EA's popular FIFA franchise has been designed specifically for touch controls. Moving players around the pitch is simple and intuitive thanks to smooth, intelligent controls. You can build your team from over 16 000 players from more than 34 leagues and 600 licensed teams, and even make up your own international Ultimate Team with players from all over, and then play game after game of glorious, gratifying soccer. ★★★★★

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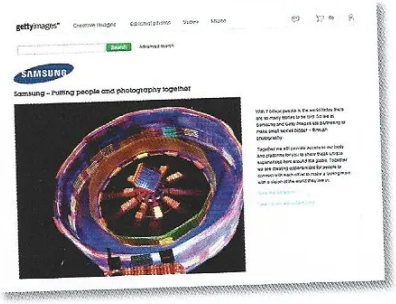
Getty partners with Samsung NX cameras

Getty Images seems set to dominate news headlines non-stop at the moment. A press release out of Samsung South Africa last month announces a new partnership with Getty to create a collection of images shot on Samsung NX Smart mirrorless cameras.



The statement out of Getty's Senior Vice President for Content, Craig Peters declares that "Getty Images is the engine behind our increasingly image-rich digital world and we are delighted to partner with Samsung, a world-class leader and innovator in consumer technology. Through this partnership, Getty Images and Samsung will provide the tools and platform for photographers worldwide to share their unique perspectives with us and the global community."

The press release mentions that the images in the current "Samsung Collection" were produced by some of Getty's top photographers using Samsung's NX range but that both companies will offer consumers opportunities to become contributors to the collection as well.

To be honest, we are not quite sure what benefit this really has in the long run for anyone. What we did find amusing was the line in the press release on how Samsung view their product and this project.

"The perfectly stylish Samsung NX system, which produces stunning images, turns pictures into stories worth telling. The partnership with Getty Images will afford consumers an opportunity to discover memories and tell their own stories, to the rest of the world through the eyes of the NX lenses."

Any photographer worth his salt will take great offense at that opening line. The camera does not produce the 'stunning images' rather it is the photographer who has to pick up and control the camera, composing the scene, setting the exposure and pressing the shutter button. Samsung's cameras may be smarter than most but they still cannot make their own images. If the company wants to be taken more seriously but 'photographers' they would do well to not make claims on the gear that drives photographers up the wall. "Wow, that's a really cool camera you have there. It must take amazing photographs." The line every photographer hates.

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WIN!

ONE OF TWO AWESOME FUJIFILM CAMERAS

An X100 and XF 1 up for grabs for lucky readers.

Regular readers will probably be aware by now that like most people in the photography industry, we've been incredibly impressed by Japanese camera manufacturer Fujifilm over recent years. Its X series of cameras have changed the way people think of digital photography.

Its cameras appeal to the retro aesthetic of the golden age of photography, calling to mind the rangefinders that revolutionised photojournalism, yet are absolutely cutting edge when it comes to features. The X-Trans sensor at the heart of most modern Fujifilm cameras have a unique sensor layout that captures awesome picture quality in low light conditions, and thanks to the fact they don't have an optical low pass filter, X-Trans sensors are sharper than typical digital cameras.

What's best about Fujifilm cameras, though, is that we've got two to give away. One lucky reader will win the camera that launched the X Series – the Fujifilm X100. The camera has a fixed length lens and a classic rangefinder look, and has been the darling of street photographers since it launched in 2012. A runner-up will win the super compact and highly stylish Fujifilm XF 1 worth R2 995.

All you have to do is answer the following question:

The Fuji X100 has a fixed length lens. How long is it?

a) 18mm

b) 23mm

c) 50mm

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Terms & conditions apply.

Why the pros are switching to X series

X Photographer Gus Waschefort is an acclaimed South African photojournalist with 16 years experience of working in conflict situations.

I often find myself in volatile and sensitive situations as my work focuses predominantly on human rights issues such as child soldiering, gangsterism and the plight of the disabled. The Fujifilm X100/X100S has changed the way I work in that I am now able to maintain a very low profile, and avoid not only unwanted attention but also capitalize on a greater freedom to shoot candid images, while not compromising on quality at all. On the contrary Fujifilm's X-Trans sensor technology produces remarkable image quality in the most challenging lighting conditions. The design of the camera is often labelled as 'retro', which is quite accurate. However, with this camera form follows function. The retro/manual style of the camera is less about a fashion statement and more about functionality. The leave shutter of the X100/X100S is particularly functional to me, as the advantages of the unobtrusive size and design of the camera would be diminished if the shutter were noisy, as focal plane shutters tend to be (not to mention SLR mirror assemblies!). I work exclusively with Fujifilm X-Series cameras, and the X100S/X100 is the camera that goes with me everywhere!

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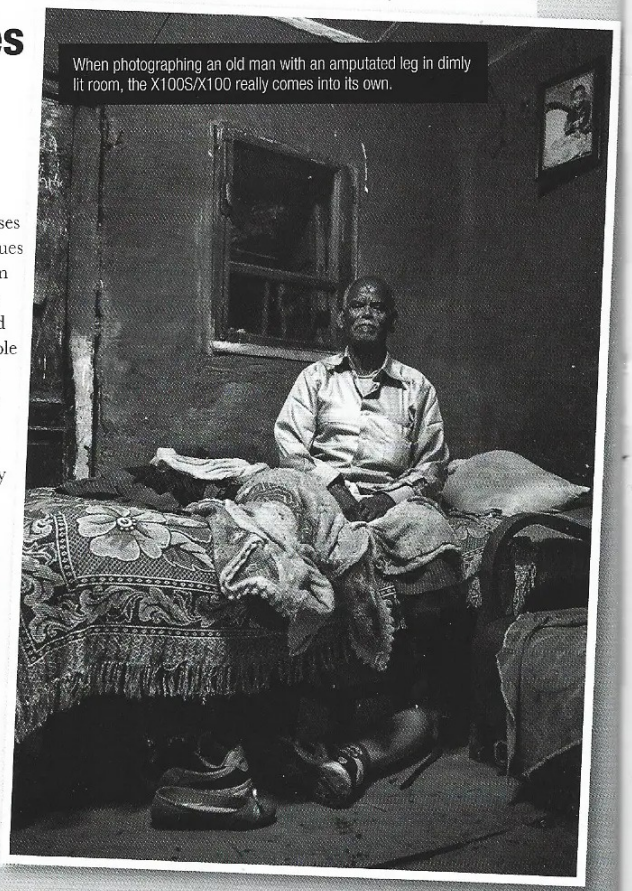

When photographing an old man with an amputated leg in dimly lit room, the X100S/X100 really comes into its own.

X-Photographer

Canon keeps top photo spot

Japanese camera manufacturer Canon has been crowing this month: it's sent out a press release claiming that it's been the number one selling DSLR brand in the 11 years since it's very first camera of that type, and has sold a staggering 250 million interchangeable lens cameras over the same length of time.

Astonishingly, that means that one in five Canon digital cameras ever sold has had a removable lens.

While the sales figures for this year have been below analysts initial expectations, mirrorless cameras are making some in-roads into the industry and in this market segment Canon and Nikon are not the established players. Competition is good for innovation so while we commend Canon on their accomplishments thus far, we look forward to seeing what they do next.

Sony expands the E-mount Alpha range

Sony's Alpha 3500, a new E-mount mirrorless camera to replaces the A3000 (which has been the entry-level camera in the Sony range up until now) is coming to SA this month.

Very little that has changed – it's the same 20MP APS-C sized sensor with the lowest resolution electronic viewfinder and LCD screen of the entire Alpha range.

What is important for Sony, particularly in the South African market, is the price point. This mirrorless camera looks like a DSLR, something many local consumers are still keen on, and will hit the price point of just R3 999. This puts the Sony Alpha 3500 in the same range as the coveted Nikon D3100 and Canon EOS 1100D.

The Sony Alpha 3500 will come with a new 18-50mm lens and at that 4k price point, we are keen to get a hands-on with it soon.

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WHICH IS THE BEST... top end compact

Pocket cameras that pack and SLR-quality punch: which is South Africa's best compact?

Every year another set of pundits line up to decry the death of the compact camera. "People just use their phones now," they say, pointing to Flickr stats which show iPhone users outranking photographers using low end kit for uploads. "Everyone uses mirrorless now," they reply, when asked about the enthusiast 'bridge' shooter.

And yet the market for relatively expensive, powerful all-rounders with fixed lenses and compact credentials remains. Sharp-shooting, with perfect pictures every time, these are the cameras that remain able to see off the threat from small interchangeable formats and mobile phones alike.

Why? Because they're excellent. They have all the image quality and zoom reach an experienced 'tog needs, with the ease of use novices want just to take good shots.

And these are three of the best ones available right now. The only question that remains, which should you buy?

OLYMPUS STYLUS 1

ALL THE JOY OF A MIRRORLESS OLLY, WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT CHANGING THE LENS.

Capable of fitting in a jacket pocket, the Olympus Stylus 1 should not be underestimated as a camera just because it's a bit smaller in size than some of it's closest rivals. It also shares some of its styling from the increasingly popular OM-D mirroless cameras from Olympus which makes it more attractive.

HANDLING

The Stylus 1 shares a lot of DNA with the OM-D system: many controls are similar, making for a familiar experience off the bat. It feels well made and packs a punch in features for it's size. As a second camera it's a treat but if it's going to be a primary shooter that you use frequently, it may feel a little small and cramped at times.

IMAGE QUALITY

Olympus equipped the Stylus 1 with a 12MP, 1/1.7"-type sensor that is built on the 'Back Side Illuminated' (abbreviated BSI to avoid frequent repetition of that terrible name) architecture which makes for a sensor that is about 200% more sensitive to light. The sensor is a little smaller (7.44x5.58mm) than the likes of the Fujifilm X20's 2/3" (8.8x6.6mm) sensor and the 1-inch type (13.2x8.8mm) sensor of the Sony RX10. Noise (AKA, digital grain) starts showing itself at ISO 400 when cropped into the image but we would say that at full size the image quality is still good at ISO 1600 and even ISO 3200 is useable.

PERFORMANCE

When it comes to autofocus performance the Stylus 1 was capable and more positive than the top selling – and much cheaper - Canon PowerShot SX50. When stacked up against the Sony Cyber-shot RX10 we did find the Stylus 1 struggled a bit more in low light conditions. The 28-300mm equivalent lens with its constant f/2.8 aperture is sharp and a great performer across the range.

KEY FEATURES

- 12MP 1/1.7"-type BSI CMOS sensor
- 10.7x (28-300mm equiv) optical zoom with constant f/2.8 aperture
- High quality 1.44M dot LCD viewfinder
- 1.04M dot Touch LCD screen
- Wi-Fi connectivity for smartphones and tablets.

R9 999.00

SCORES

Handling	7
Image Quality	7
Performance	7
Value	8
Overall	**7**

SONY CYBERSHOT RX10

A BIG ZOOM AND LARGE SENSOR PUT THE RX10 ON TOP.

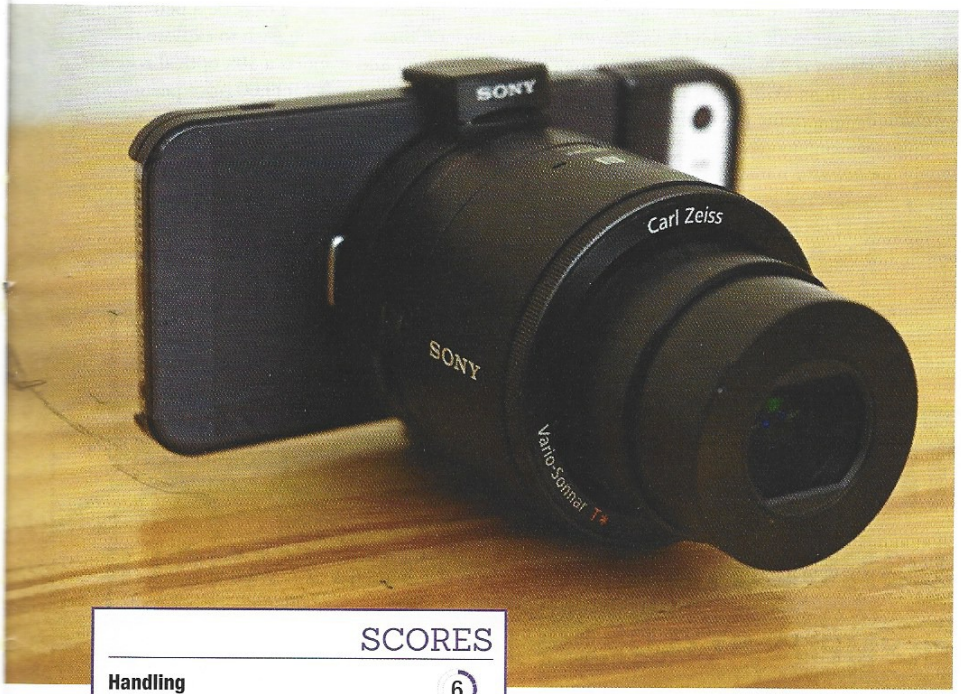
There are not many occasions where we find ourselves with a camera that has us scratching our head and wondering what on Earth we can liken it to. With the RX10 Sony have created just such a beast that photography and tech publishers the world over have been perplexed by.

HANDLING

Sony has chosen to make a play for a very premium built product with the RX10. It's more similar in size to the popular Canon SX50 hybrid than the Stylus 1 and it a little heftier thanks to it's huge lens. The beauty is it sits comfortably in the hand and is well balanced, but sacrifices the ability to fits in a pocket.

SONY CYBERSHOT QX100

PHONES: IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM, JOIN THEM.



Smartphones have had their negative impact on compact camera sales, no hiding that, but Sony's QX range of Cyber-shots is not your regular compact camera with Wi-Fi, instead the sensor and lens hockey pucks attach to your smartphone making use of your pocket companion's screen as it's own.

HANDLING

The QX100 is… well… round. Its like a tube that surrounds the lens from Sony's pocket powerhouse compact, the RX100 Mk II. It clips onto your smartphone through a tensioned clip and pairs to the device via Wi-Fi. The QX100 has its own zoom switch and shutter button or can be controlled from you phone's screen too. The idea is interesting but one will likely find a conventionally styled camera – like the RX100 Mk II - quicker to use.

IMAGE QUALITY

Thanks to the use of the same sensor as the RX10, Sony's QX100 offers incredible image quality. In some instances we even felt that the QX100 had a slight edge over the RX10. It's one weakness is the inability through the Play Memories app (required to control the QX100) to manually adjust ISO settings

PERFORMANCE

Once you have paired the QX100 to your smartphone (a process made much easier on many an Android device than Apple's iPhone thanks to NFC) the user experience is surprisingly good thanks to a recent firmware update. There is still a slight delay from where you point the lens and the screen catching up but its not unbearable. Once again, its not as great an experience as shooting with an RX100 or RX10 but as a form of Frankenstein, first generation device, camera and smartphone hybrid device, the QX100 it is surprisingly good.

SCORES

Handling	6
Image Quality	8
Performance	5
Value	6
Overall	**6**

KEY FEATURES

- 20MP 1"-type BSI CMOS sensor
- 3.6x (28-100mm equiv) f/1.8-4.9 Zeiss lens
- NFC and Wi-Fi

R5 999.00

IMAGE QUALITY

With the RX10 Sony have opted to use their market disrupting 20MP 1"-type BSI CMOS sensor which is roughly twice the size of the next smallest compact sensor like the 2/3"-type sensor found in the Fuji X20. That means the Sony sensor is even bigger still, than the Stylus 1. The cropped images show a high ISO performance not too dissimilar to that of the Olympus which surprised us a little. At full size images however, the RX10's noise only shows itself from about ISO 3200, one stop better than the Stylus 1 and remains acceptable up to ISO 6400.

PERFORMANCE

The lens in the RX10 is a Carl Zeiss 24-200mm equivalent with a constant f/2.8 aperture and due to the larger sensor in the camera, the lens requires lot more glass. This makes for a much slower zooming mechanism than just about any other camera we have used. That said, what the camera looses in zoom speed it appears to make up for in autofocus performance which was better the the Stylus 1 in low light conditions. If you are serious about videography the RX10 is again without peers sporting a microphone and headphone jack with live audio monitoring as found on the Sony Alpha 7.

KEY FEATURES

- 20MP 1"-type BSI CMOS sensor
- 24-200mm equivalent Carl Zeiss lens with f/2.8 constant aperture
- 1.44M dot OLED viewfinder
- Weather-sealed magnesium alloy body
- Wi-Fi functionality

R12 999.00

SCORES

Handling	8
Image Quality	8
Performance	8
Value	7
Overall	**8**

EDITOR'S CHOICE
htxt.africa

CONCLUSION

This has been an interesting shoot out. As we have mentioned, none of these machines have many if any direct competitors, particularly in South Africa where the likes of Panasonic's Lumix FZ200 is not available.

You can certainly get more zoom for far less money in cameras like Canon's PowerShot SX50 or Sony's Cyber-shot HX300, both of which sport 50x (24-1200mm equiv) optical zoom lenses and cost about R5,000.00. While these cameras have their place, they are not the kind of camera we feel anyone serious about their final image quality or coming from a DSLR type camera, will be satisfied with as a single, all-in-one, run around solution.

For many years the camera that was top of the list for such a solution was Canon's capable G-series PowerShot, the current iteration of which is the G16. The zoom range is 5x optical making it less versatile then the Stylus 1 and RX10 plus like the QX100, the aperture of the lens varies as you zoom out where both the RX10 and Stylus 1 sport a constant f/2.8 aperture through-out their zoom range. With the Rand exchange rate also driving many prices up, the G16 Canon is starting to creep closer to better image quality alternatives like Sony's RX100 Mk II and the G16 even out prices the quirky Sony QX100 we reviewed here. Never before has the G-series PowerShots been so challenged for their crown.

In the end we came to the following final verdict. While we want to love the QX100 and think it is a fascinating concept, the awkward shape and size eliminates its "convenient, smartphone companion" status. The smaller QX10 may be a better consideration should you wish to explore this new segment and it sports a 10x optical zoom for a much cheaper R2 999.00 price point.

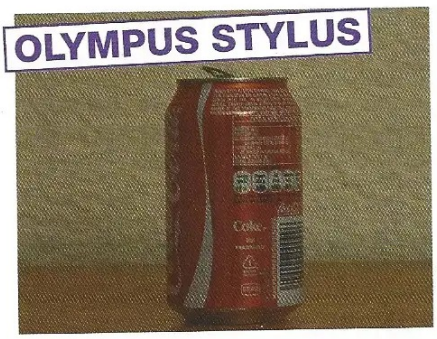
If compact size is your top priority, be it your primary camera or a companion for whatever other cameras you already own, you cannot go wrong with the Olympus Stylus 1, we would be happy with it in our pocket. For the R3 000 price difference however, and as a primary camera or for the best image quality and video ability, our camera of choice in this shoot-out is the Sony Cyber-shot RX10, if only by a margin, it warrants it's premium.

CAMERA, IN ACTION

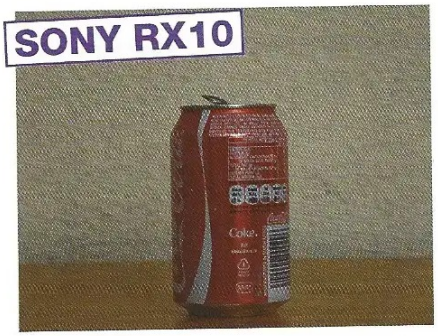
SAMPLE SHOTS FROM OUR TRI OF COMPACT, UM, SAMPLES.

ISO 100

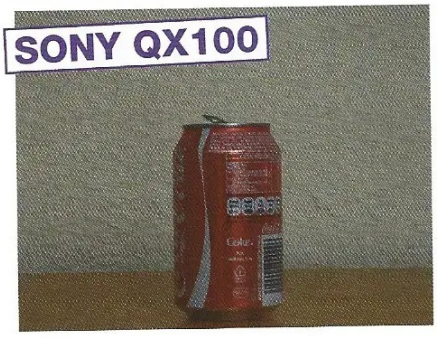
OLYMPUS STYLUS



SONY RX10

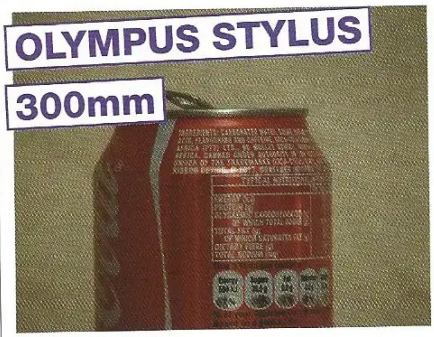


SONY QX100

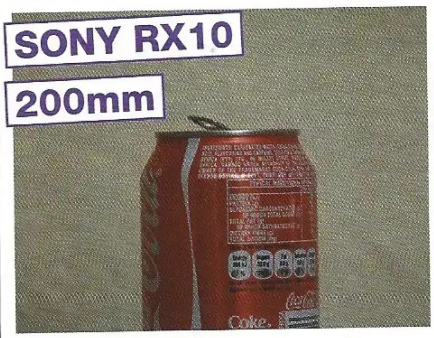


LONGEST LENS

OLYMPUS STYLUS
300mm



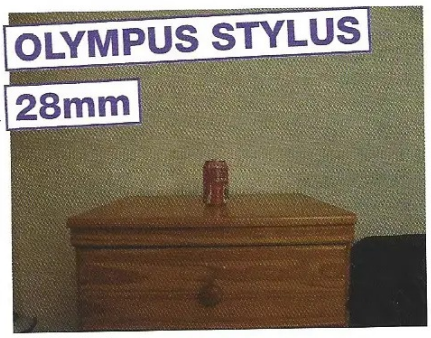
SONY RX10
200mm



SONY QX100
100mm

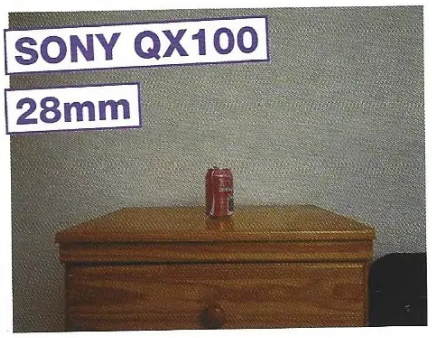
WIDEST ANGLE

OLYMPUS STYLUS
28mm



SONY RX10
24mm

SONY QX100
28mm



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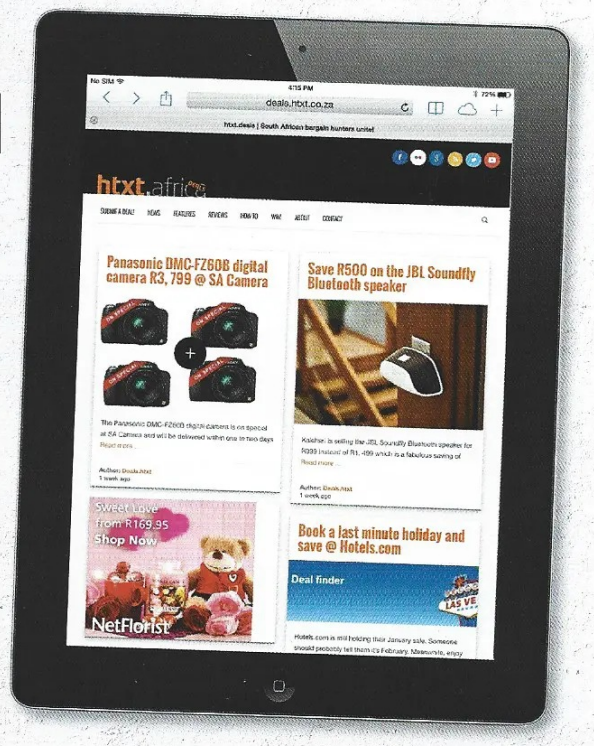

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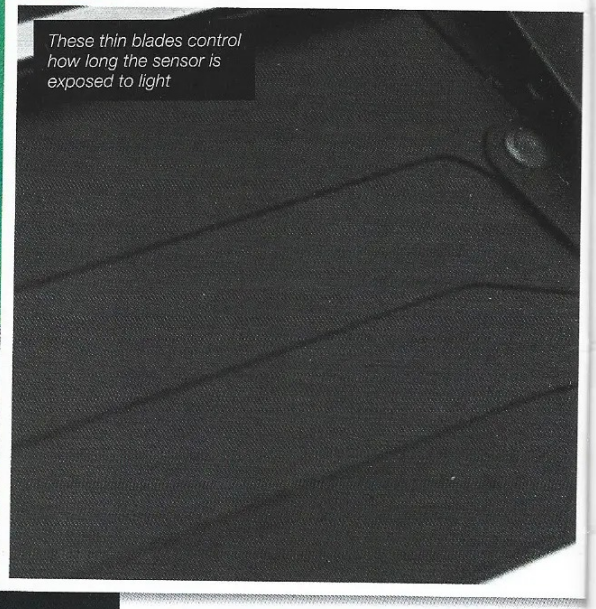
Exposur Shutter

In photography, shutter speed (also called exposure time) is the length of time a camera's shutter is open when taking a photograph. It's the amount of light that reaches the film or image sensor is proportional to the exposure time.



These thin blades control how long the sensor is exposed to light

SHUTTER MECHANISM

Your camera, particularly DSLR cameras, are equipped with a mechanical shutter mechanism that is essentially made up of extremely thin blades which open and close in front of the camera's light sensitive sensor. This controls the amount of time light is allowed onto the camera sensor and constitutes a shutter speed.

DETERMINING FACTORS

The shutter speed you land up using for an exposure is going to depend on the amount of light coming through the lens (controlled by the 'Aperture' which we will cover next time) and the ISO sensitivity your sensor is set at. The more light and/or the higher the sensitivity, the shorter the duration the shutter needs to stay open and vice versa.

ure explained: r speeds

SHUTTER SPEEDS

The average camera will have shutter speeds as follows; 4000, 2000, 1000, 500, 250, 125, 60, 30, 15, 8, 4, 2, 1s, 2s, 4s, 8s, 15s, 30s.

Strictly speaking, the larger numbers in that scale are meant to be quoted as fractions of time, so 1/4000, 1/2000 and so forth, with the speeds quoted as 1s, 2s or 1', 2', being seconds in length and no longer fractions thereof.

FREEZE FRAME

Shutter speeds control the amount of movement that will record in an image as well. Using slow shutter speeds will cause – for example – a racing car to blur on the photograph particularly from 1/60th of a second or slower depending on the speed of the car. Likewise the slower the shutter speed the greater the chance of getting camera shake when your camera is not being used on a tripod.

RULE OF THUMB

There is a rule to follow to help avoid camera shake in your images (though this does not eliminate the need to hold the camera as steady as possible. The rule is this, your shutter speed should match your lens focal length. So if you are shooting with a 200mm lens your shutter speed should not go below 1/250th of a second. Image stabilised lenses or cameras with in camera stabilisation systems do offer some room to break this rule, generally allowing two or so steps (aka stops) down in the scale, meaning your 200mm lens can be used at 1/60th of a second.

ASSIGNMENT

Experiment with you cameras shutter speeds by setting the camera in the semi-automatic mode known as Shutter-Priority. It is the mode displayed on your camera's mode dial with a big "S" or "TV" which stands for Time Value. Photography a river or waterfall at different speeds and see what effect it has on the water.

The dial above shows the typical shutter speeds on most cameras

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HOW TO TRACK A STOLEN SMARTPHONE

The modern smartphone has one very important feature that has become useful if lost or stolen: it knows where it is, and if you set it up right, it'll share that information with you

Bit.ly/1huejml

HOW TO PRINT FROM YOUR MOBILE PHONE

Printing anything can be a very messy affair. But you can now print directly from your smartphone or tablet without any need for drivers or bloated software. Here's how to go about it.

Bit.ly/1jwLs5c

HOW TO RECORD, EDIT & UPLOAD VIDEO WITH A PS4

Sharing game screenshots and videos with your friends has never been easier thanks to the PlayStation 4's new Share button. To show you just how easy it is, we've put together this quick How To.

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B2 Ball Head Double Action with Friction Control

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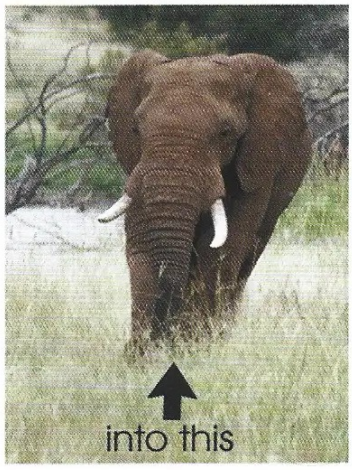
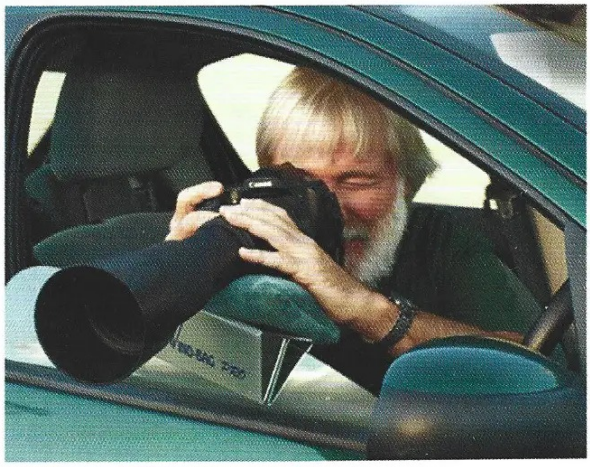
Wildlife photography giving you the shakes?





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WINDOWS SPECIAL

10 TIPS & TRICKS FOR WINDOWS 8.1

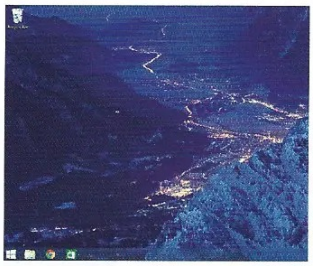
Last year's Windows 8.1 upgrade brought back the Start button (among other things), and it's aimed at polishing Windows 8.1 to an absolute shine with a few changes of its own. Here are some essential tips to help you with the OS.

1. BOOT TO DESKTOP

This one is easy - you don't even have to do anything. While booting straight to the desktop was made possible by the last year's 8.1 update, this new update makes the process automatic, depending on the hardware you're using. With the 8.1 Update installed, Windows boots to the desktop by default, and to the Start Screen if it detects it's running on a tablet. You can change that in the settings, of course, but that's the default behaviour.

2. MODERN UI APPS NOW OPERATE LIKE WINDOWS

Apps run directly from the Start Screen have, until now, not offered minimise or close buttons. No longer: Windows 8.1 Update adds status bars to Modern UI apps, so now you can close and minimise them by clicking on the familiar X and minimise buttons now visible above every app in their shiny new status bar.

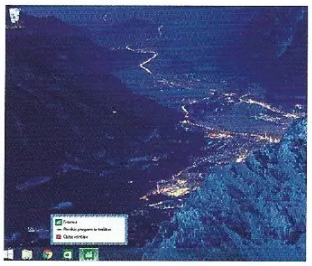


3. WINDOWS STORE PRE-PINNED TO TASKBAR

When you boot into the Windows 8.1 desktop, you'll see that the Windows Store is pinned onto your taskbar by default. It's entirely removable, of course, but it's still the quickest and easiest way to visit Microsoft's digital storefront to buy and try the various apps developers are putting out for Windows 8 these days.

4. PIN FREQUENTLY-USED APPS TO THE TASKBAR

Everyone has apps they use quite frequently, and with the Windows 8.1 Update you can now pin those often-used apps directly to the Taskbar. All you need to do is right-click on the app you want, and choose Pin to Taskbar from the context menu that pops up. Voila, you can now open that app right from your desktop.



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10 TIPS & TRICKS FOR WINDOWS 8.1 CONTINUED...

5. CONTEXT MENU IN START SCREEN (RIGHT CLICK)

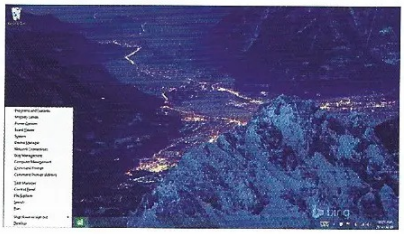
Right-clicking on the Start Screen now brings up a context menu, rather than a useless status bar along the bottom of the screen with none of the options you're actually looking for.

6. POWER BUTTON

You'll notice that just to the right of your profile information that's located in the top right corner of the Start Screen, a new Power button has appeared. Turning your PC off is now as easy as clicking that and choose Shut Down, rather than digging through menus and sub menus. Clearly, Microsoft's engineers were wrong when they figured people would just close their notebooks or let them go to sleep after an automatic timeout.

7. DEDICATED SEARCH BUTTON

A lot of people probably didn't know that simply typing on the Start Screen would initiate a search. Now, they don't have to know that because a dedicated Search box appears on the Start Screen. Simply click on it and start typing to find what you're looking for.



8. DEEPER DESKTOP DIVING

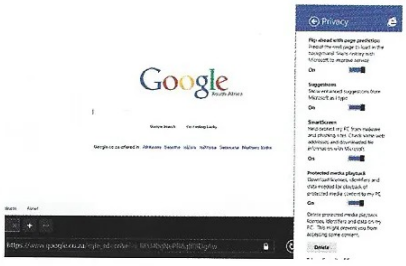
A very easy way to access many of the desktop's functions is to right click on the Start Button (or press and hold if you're on a touch device). This brings up a Quick Link menu that has shortcuts to many of your PC's most common functions (Power, Device Manager, Command Prompt and many more). Use Windows Key + X to open it from your keyboard.

9. MODERN UI APPS NOW SUPPORT THE TASKBAR

If you move your mouse cursor to the bottom of your screen when running a Modern UI app, the taskbar now appears, making it easier than ever to switch between open apps.

10. IE11'S FLIP AHEAD

Did you know you can tell Internet Explorer to guess which webpages you're going to view next and pre-emptively load them in the background? To do it, simply open Internet Explorer in Modern mode, click on the Settings charm, click on Privacy and then select "Flip ahead with page prediction". Swiping to the left and right now navigates between pages.



More Windows 8.1 apps

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SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP WITH THESE 5 WINDOWS 8.1 APPS

These days, a lot of people prefer to save on petrol and avoid the business of malls and instead, shop online from the comfort of their homes.
Bit.ly/1g2FiuI

5 HEALTH AND FITNESS APPS FOR WINDOWS 8.1

Staying healthy is a matter of learning what works and what doesn't when it comes to exercise and food, and applying those principles to your own life.
Bit.ly/1mHOiYU

TOP 5 WINDOWS 8.1 APPS FOR GETTING THINGS DONE PRODUCTIVELY

With specialised apps, being productive is as easy as it's ever been. The five apps rounded up here are all useful and easy to use, and will lead to ever-more efficiency in our daily working lives when used appropriately.

CALCULATOR FREE (Free)

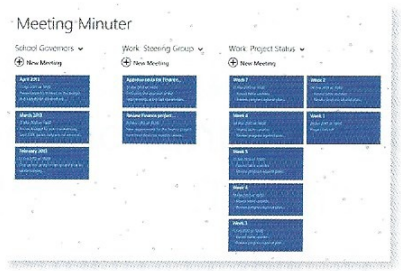
Windows 8's default calculator is serviceable, but dull. This free one from DigitalAlchemy is anything but, with four colourful themes to choose from and the option to use the calculator in whatever position you need it in, whether that's snapped to one side or full-screen. Its Live Tile remains updated with your latest result, for easy reference, and you can copy and paste numbers into the calculator from other sources. This is a simple, attractive calculator that just works.

★★★★★

MEETING MINUTER (R69.99 with free trial)

Writing down and keeping track of meeting minutes can be a bit of a nightmare if not managed properly. Meeting Minuter has been put together with the explicit purpose of taking, managing and editing meeting minutes for easy reference, making the job of curating meeting notes just that much simpler. Once you've taken notes, they're stored and arranged by date in an easily referenced arrangement that's sure to put a smile on any boss's face.

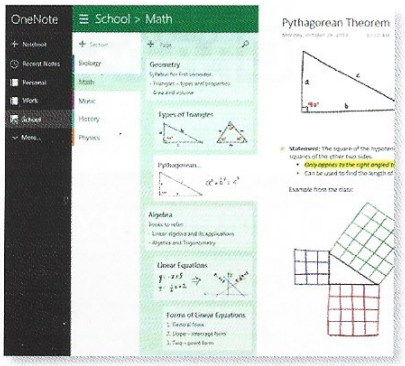
★★★★



ONENOTE Free

OneNote is more than just a note-taking tool, it's a collaboration tool that lets people share their ideas with colleagues in order to pool their resources. With it you can make drawings, take notes, save internet clips and record audio, making it an incredibly handy tool for use on projects, at school, for To Do lists or any task that requires a bit of recall. Share your creations over email, or between devices.

★★★★★



TEAMVIEWER TOUCH (Free)

Teamviewer lets you control another PC via the internet, for free. All you need to do is load the app on both machines and punch in the code and password you're given and voila, you can work on computers that are literally on the other side of the world. It requires two-sided co-operation, of course, so it's not spy software, it's just really useful when helping friends, colleagues and family members with IT issues.

★★★★★

DROPBOX (Free)

Windows 8.1 comes with Microsoft's OneDrive cloud storage service installed with 7GB of space, but if you want more why not check out Dropbox? Dropbox gives you up to 3G of free storage, with various paid-for plans available if you need more, and accessing it all is as simple as installing the app. After that it becomes a folder in your File Explorer view which is accessible like any other folder, handy for storing files in the cloud.

★★★★★

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5 WINDOWS 8.1 PHOTOGRAPHY APPS FOR THE PERFECT PIC

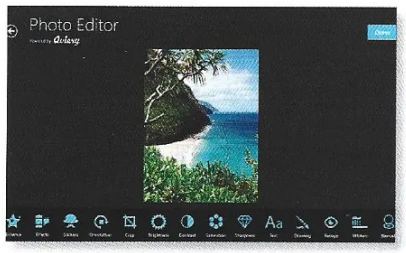
Mobile photography is more popular than ever. Need help capturing the perfect pic? Here are five free apps which we promise will.

INSTAPIC (Free)

While Instagram is only available on mobile, there's InstaPic, the app's web version. With InstaPic you still get the full Instagram experience so you can upload photos and video directly from your photo gallery and choose from InstaPic's different filters to give your photos a beautiful finish. You can also tag your friends or privately inbox photos to them and share your photos to social networks and other photo apps.

PHOTO EDITOR (Free)

Photo Editor lets you polish all your images using a number of features including crop, saturation, brightness, contrast, stickers, adding text, fixing red eye and even whitening teeth to give you a Colgate smile that would make the tooth fairy jealous. You also have a number of amazing filters and enhancements to choose between. Unfortunately, you can't share your photos directly to social networks, but Photo Editor does save them in your gallery.



FHOTOROOM (Free)

Fhotoroom is similar to Instagram but comes with a few extras: you can upload and edit photos using filters, cropping, tilting, resizing, lighting adjustments, frames and colours. It comes with support for 150 RAW file formats plus, JPEG, PNG and TIFF, so you can upload virtually any kind of photo. You can follow, like, comment and share photos with other Fhotoroom users and upload your photos to social networks.

MEMORYLAGE (Free)

Memorylage creates photomontages from images on your PC and displays them in lock screen mode. You can choose which photos you want in the collage, or let the app choose them randomly. Add filters to your collage (they won't change the original image) and arrange photos in the order you want them to appear in. Use the app's Photo Booth to take photos using your webcam and insert them into the collage.

FOTOR (Free)

Fotor is one of the best photo editing apps available on the Windows store. It comes with loads of editing and enhancing features, including a number of filters, scene modes, frames, adding text, resizing, cropping, tilt shifting, colours and cropping. You can create a collage of photos in different styles and sizes. When you're done, you can save photos as JPEGs, PNGs, BMPs or TIFFs and share them to social networks.

Want more Windows 8.1 apps?

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5 MUST-HAVE MUSIC & VIDEO APPS FOR WINDOWS 8.1

Here are five apps that will help you watch, create or simply enjoy music and videos on your Windows 8 PC or tablet.

Bit.ly/1jo820p

5 WINDOWS 8.1 APPS FOR A GOOD READ

The internet is a treasure trove with millions of books, articles and magazines online, so if you're looking for a good read, these five book apps are ideal downloads.

Bit.ly/1ixMjy0

10 things you need to know about Samsung Galaxy S5

Got yourself one of Samsung's excellent new smartphones? You'll be wanting these top tips for using it, then.

1. NEW LOOK OUTSIDE

Yes, the Galaxy S5 is still made out of plastic, however it has borrowed several design queues from its big brother, the Galaxy Note 3, to ramp up the premium feel. The sides have a similar silver ribbed plastic with a new dimpled back cover that looks almost like a Band-Aid plaster. It may sound weird but it feels much better than any previous Galaxy S model.

2. FASTER BITS INSIDE

All new insides make the Galaxy S5 the most powerful flagship smartphone Samsung has ever released. Qualcomm's latest quad core Snapdragon 801 processor running at 2.5GHz runs alongside 2GB of RAM and a larger 5.1-inch, 1080p, Super AMOLED HD display. USB 3, Bluetooth 4.0, 802.11ac with MIMO and Cat 4 LTE all make the Galaxy S5 more powerful than most users will ever really need.

3. BIGGER, BETTER BATTERY

A bigger battery is not the only thing that Samsung has done to ensure your Galaxy S5 makes it through the day: the new MicroUSB 3.0 charger can get the battery from zero – full in around two hours flat. Add to that the new Ultra Power Saving Mode which turns 10% battery life into more than 24 hours of standby time and the S5 could set a benchmark in all day smartphone use.

4. RINSE AND REPEAT

The Galaxy S4 came with an accidental damage from handling warranty that covered it for two broken screen or water damage repairs, the Galaxy S5 takes the threat of water damage down another notch with an IP67 rating. IP, or Ingress Protection, ratings consist of two numbers: the first is a rating for a device fairs against solid particles, like dust, and the second is a test for liquid protection. The Galaxy S5 is IP67 rated which means that it is completely 'dust tight' and 'water resistant' meaning it can survive in up to 1 meter of water for up to 30 minutes.

5. ALL LTE, ALL THE TIME

an Exynos powered 3G version will be sold through networks without LTE capabilities.

6. SNAPPIER CAMERA

The new 16MP camera sensor is the first to have both contrast-detect autofocus as well as phase-detect autofocus which helps the camera focus exceptionally fast. Contrast-detect will be familiar to smartphone users in practice if not by name.

7. HEART-RATE SENSING

S Health is back in a big way and this time it has hardware to back up the software features. A new heart-rate sensor sits just below the camera module, next to the flash and can read your heart rate in around five to ten seconds just by holding your finger on it.

8. FINGERPRINT SCANNER

As with the iPhone 5s, the Galaxy S5 has a fingerprint sensor built into the home button on its front. Unlike Apple's version though it requires you to swipe downward to unlock the device instead of holding your finger in place.

9. BONDED, BOOSTER DOWNLOAD SPEEDS

Downloading a file larger than 30MB in size? Need to speed things up? Then combine the speed of your LTE connection with that of the WiFi network to boost your download speeds. (Just be wary of your data limit on your smartphone running out faster than you might have expected.)

10. PRICE

All of the major networks have the Galaxy S5 available on various contracts with Vodacom also offering a trade-in deal to get a few bucks off every month for ditching your old smartphone. The recommended retail price for the Galaxy S5 is set at R10 200.

Learn more at...
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HOW TO CREATE A YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

The user interface of the world's largest online video community keeps changing which can complicate even the simplest of tasks. Making a YouTube playlist, isn't as straightforward as it used to be.
Bit.ly/1g50GtG

HOW TO TAKE BETTER PICTURES WITH YOUR PHONE

The most basic smartphone can take reasonable shots so here's a few tips and tricks for mastering the art of pocket phone photography.
Bit.ly/1jwMRbY

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Component Specials

Processors

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INTEL PENTIUM G2030 3.0ghz	R 849
INTEL CI3 3240 3.4GHZ	R 1749
INTEL CI5 3340 3.1GHZ	R 2859

Intel Haswell (socket 1150)

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INTEL CI7 4770 3.4GHZ	R 4599
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SOFTWARE

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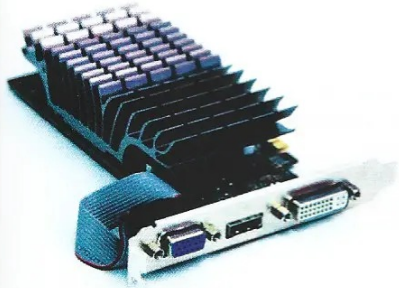

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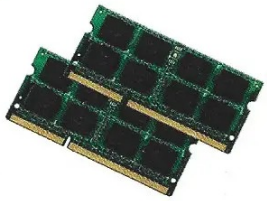

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SA tech in stats

The numbers that sum up the state of the nation

Microsoft paid $7.2bn (R76.61) for phone company Nokia, in a deal which closed this month. Bit.ly/1ntLoGl

Google's Project Ara is looking good. The firm reckons its modular smartphone will cost just **$50** for a basic handset.

16 350 000
number of iPads sold worldwide in the first three months of the year, down 3 000 000 on last year's figure. Bit.ly/1kclT9c

973 064
number of subscribers kicked off of MTN's network for not spending any money this year.
http://bit.ly/1jLpdoz

40Gbps
Speed of the new Thunderbolt spec as revealed by Intel this month. Bit.ly/1htMpuu

WhatsApp now has 500 000 000 users worldwide.

5 793kmph: The speed at which **NASA** probe **LADEE** (intentionally) crashed into the moon, while being driven by a team of South Africans. **Bit.ly/1gXc3UL**

NEXT MONTH

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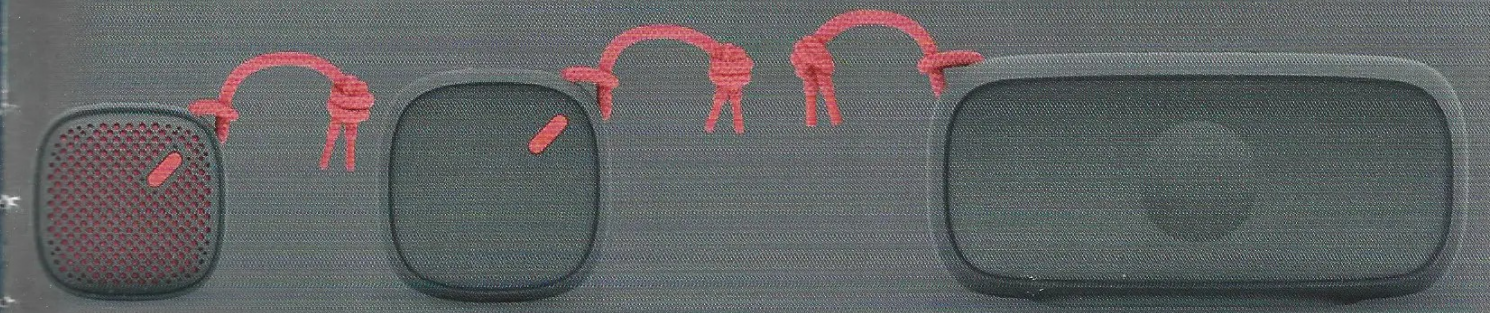

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